Peter: Bill to exempt some from OPA fee would also forgive $40M debt. PAGE 2
Ex-IPI chair ordered to pay over $180K attorneys' fees. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 104

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Court extends TRO vs CCC

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has extended the temporary restraining order taken out by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC against the Commonwealth Casino Commission to allow the defense to properly respond to IPI's complaint.

During a status conference yesterday for the complaint and TRO filed by IPI against the CCC, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted the CCC's request for "enlargement of time to properly respond" to the complaint.

"Defendants are to respond no later than Tuesday, May 31, at 12 noon and plaintiff's reply is due Thursday, June 2," she said.

Manglona also extended IPI's TRO to expire on June 8, at 12pm instead of June 3.

The court also set an order to show cause hearing for Monday, June 6, at 1:30pm to address the parties' responses.

Meanwhile, IPI counsel Kevin

See COURT on Page 4

'The light was green'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The third day of the jury trial for an Artman garbage truck driver accused of killing a man in a fatal car accident ended with the defendant personally testifying that, from his point of view and based on his recollection, the traffic light at the Puerto Rico intersection was green when he was passing through.

Eduardo Fabia, 50, took the stand yesterday to testify about what he remembered of the fatal car accident that took the life of another man last Feb. 1, 2021, when the garbage truck he was driving

See GREEN on Page 4

DUE TO POTENTIAL SALMONELLA CONTAMINATION

Select Jif peanut butter recalled

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advises residents of the CNMI to not consume certain Jif brand peanut butter products.

The J.M. Smucker Company issued a recall of select Jif peanut butter products sold in the U.S. due to potential Salmonella contamination. According to the company announcement, the recalled peanut butter was distributed nationwide in retail stores and other outlets. Recalled products include the products with lot codes 1274425 through 2140425. Lot codes are included alongside best-if-used-by dates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Product photos courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and prevention.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been 14 reported illnesses and two hos-

See JIF on Page 4

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, with Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, members of the Office of the Veterans Affairs, and representatives of CNMI government departments and agencies, proclaimed yesterday the month of May 2022 as CNMI Military Appreciation Month and the week of May 23-30, 2022 as CNMI Memorial Week.

Gunman kills 19 children at Texas elementary school

By EUGENE GARCIA and DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—An 18-year-old gunman opened fire Tuesday at a Texas elementary school, killing at least 19 children as he went from classroom to classroom, officials said, in the latest gruesome moment for a country scarred by a string of massacres. The attacker was killed by law enforcement.

The death toll also included two adults, authorities said. Gov. Greg Abbott said one of the two was a teacher.

The assault at Robb Elementary School in the heavily Latino town of Uvalde was the deadliest shooting at a U.S. grade school since a gunman killed 20 children and six

See GUNMAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT
Today's issue comes with a pullout supplement, Pay it Forward, starting on Page 9.

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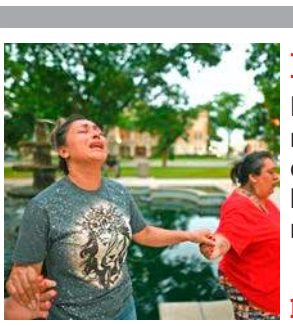

NATION
Distraught families mourn and make desperate pleas for help finding their missing children.

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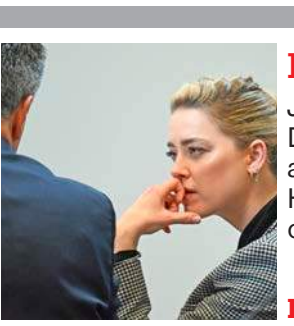

LIFE & STYLE
Jurors in Johnny Depp's libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard hear a snippet of testimony.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Peter: Bill to exempt some from OPA fee would also forgive $40M debt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has taken exception to a proposed bill that not only would exempt some agencies from paying 1% of their budget to OPA but would also forgive a $40 million debt owed the CNMI government. The same bill, House Bill 22-102, will also negatively affect the OPA's ability to function independently as required by law, according to CNMI Public Auditor Kina B. Peter.

Peter

In comments she submitted Tuesday to House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) on H.B. 22-102, Peter said the bill, as written, rewards public entities' disregard of the law that created a 1% funding mechanism to ensure that the OPA's budgetary needs are met and forgives a massive debt owed the CNMI general fund.

Peter is also disappointed that she has to make written comments instead of appearing personally before the House since OPA received no notice of this measure being on the House session's agenda on Rota yesterday.

She said travel arrangements were impossible at this late hour and it is her hope that her letter will adequately communicate the importance of Villagomez's full attention to the underlying issues raised in the bill.

Villagomez is the main author of H.B. 22-102, that seeks to exempt public corporations and autonomous agencies from paying the 1% Public Auditor fee. Villagomez stated in the legislation that the exemption provides financial relief to the autonomous agencies and public corporations that do not utilize the audit service of the OPA in the first place.

Villagomez

For example, Villagomez said, CPA is required by its bond indentures to file its complete financial statements, together with an audit report and opinion of an independent certified public accountant that is nationally recognized in the U.S. and a certificate that CPA is in compliance with its bond payment.

Villagomez said an additional concern for CPA is that the Public Auditor fee, as a general charge imposed upon CPA annually, constitutes revenue diversion from CPA that would violate federal entitlement or discretionary grant conditions or jeopardize such grants for airport or seaport improvements.

» Of $40M debt, CUC alone owes general fund $20M

Similarly, he said, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hires its own independent auditor for its annual audit.

In OPA's comments, Peter noted that the estimated past due amounts from all autonomous agencies total approximately $40 million, with CUC alone making up approximately $20 million of the total amount due.

Peter pointed out that, according to Article 3, Section 12 of the NMI Constitution, "any unencumbered fund balance in a fiscal year shall be available for general appropriation."

The public auditor emphasized that the outstanding balance does not go to OPA's account.

She said this $40 million balance goes back to the CNMI government general fund and is available for appropriations by the House.

For example, Peter said, the $20 million owed the general fund from CUC could be used as offset for CNMI government utility bills.

"We urge you to consider the future financial situation of the CNMI and how much of a difference $40 million could make to the general fund," she told Villagomez.

She pointed out that, the CNMI created the 1% funding mechanism for OPA's budgetary needs in order to remain independent and free from political interference through the appropriations process.

She said according to 1 CMC Section 7831, OPA is supposed to be funded by 1% of all locally generated funds.

However, in reality, Peter said, OPA's funding under such law, which requires the same 1% contribution to OPA from CNMI public corporations and autonomous agencies, has been at risk because nearly all such agencies regularly ignore the law of the Commonwealth.

She said as a direct result of the autonomous agencies' failure to pay their annual share of the required 1% funding to OPA, OPA has been faced with significant downsizing.

Peter cited an example in 2004 when OPA had five audit managers, 14 audit staff members, two attorneys, and five investigators. Currently, she said, OPA has one audit manager, seven audit staff members, one attorney, one investigations manager, and four investigators.

Peter said H.B. 22-102 would not hold the autonomous agencies and public corporations accountable for their non-compliance and it would directly threaten OPA's ability to fulfill its constitutional and legislative mandates.

She said OPA is the back stop for honesty and accountability for all three branches of the government and has been recognized by the CNMI Supreme Court as the "sentinel against government malfeasance."

The public auditor said the findings and purpose in H.B. 22-102 that "certain autonomous agencies and public corporations do not utilize the audit service of OPA" is misleading.

"While certain audit services are contracted directly by some autonomous agencies, there are many services provided by OPA to provide oversight for all aspects of the government, including the autonomous agencies, to include: performance audits, investigations, ethics act investigations, assistance with the elections, and other statutory mandates," she said.

Furthermore, Peter said, the suggested fee structure in H.B. 22-102 is unsustainable in light of the many roles that OPA plays within the CNMI government.

She said quantifying the costs for investigations, elections, and other statutorily mandated services would be difficult.

She said OPA would be pu-

See PETER on Page 4

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FBI's $25K reward for info on Luhk sisters still available

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faloma Luhk

AGE PROGRESSED

The $25,000 reward that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had offered for information that will lead to the recovery of missing sisters Maleina and Faloma Luhk remains on the table, despite the passage of 11 years since the two went missing on May 25, 2011.

In response to Saipan Tribune's request for comments and update about their investigation into the Luhk sisters' mysterious disappearance, FBI special agent-in-charge Steven Merrill said yesterday that they are still seeking information from the public for the missing sisters.

Maleina Luhk

AGE PROGRESSED

"Anyone with information is urged to contact the FBI Saipan Tip Line at (670) 322-6934 or FBI Honolulu's 24-hour Tip Line at (808) 566-4300," Merrill said.

He said the public can find the recent age progression images of the Luhk sisters on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (https://www.missingkids.org/poster/ncmc/1172939/2).

Maleina was last seen wearing a white blouse and blue jeans. She has a birthmark on her left cheek. Faloma was last seen wearing a light green shirt with a butterfly design and blue jeans.

Yesterday marked the 11th year since the sisters mysteriously disappeared near their house in As Teo while waiting for a school bus, yet there's still no trace of their whereabouts.

Maleina and Faloma would have been 20 and 21 years old, respectively, now as they had just their birthdays last February. Maleina's birthday was Feb. 13, while Faloma was Feb. 9.

Maleina was 9 years old, while Faloma was 10 when they disappeared while waiting for the school bus at a bus shelter along As Teo Drive in the corner of Santa Lourdes Road on the morning of May 25, 2011.

Their disappearance triggered an islandwide search for a month by federal and local law enforcement agencies, including the FBI. The search drew many volunteers in the community.

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2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE
SALE PRICE $26,995 | STK: 22M050A | 33,750 MILES | KBB: $27,271

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SALE PRICE $11,995 | 85,600 MILES | STK:21D127A | KBB: $12,589

2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
SALE PRICE $18,995 | 62,261 MILES | STK: 17P365 | KBB: $19,752

2018 HONDA CIVIC EX
SALE PRICE $22,995 | 28,988 MILES | STK: 22M032A | KBB: $23,426

2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT
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SALE PRICE $11,995 | 30,342 MILES | STK: 16P420 | KBB: $12,312

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SALE PRICE $14,995 | 69,980 MILES | STK: 16P436 | KBB: $15,515

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
SALE PRICE $19,995 | 45,500 MILES | STK: 22M051A | KBB: $22,605

2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T
SALE PRICE $22,995 | 21,961 MILES | STK:18HS947 | KBB: $23,805

2012 NISSAN 370Z
SALE PRICE $33,995 | 57,000 MILES | STK: 12P439

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT
SALE PRICE $16,995 | 17,845 MILES | STK: 16P390A | KBB: $17,845

2018 HYUNDAI KONA
SALE PRICE $19,995 | 24,415 MILES | STK: 21D129A | KBB: $19,455

2009 NISSAN 370Z COUPE
SALE PRICE $24,995 | 96,120 MILES | STK:9P418

2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4WD
SALE PRICE $49,995 | 28,265 MILES | STK:17P347

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 HATCHBACK
SALE PRICE $17,995 | 12,743MILES | STK:18HS994 | KBB: $18,260

2018 HONDA CIVIC LX
SALE PRICE $21,995 | 54,000 MILES | STK:18P426 | KBB: $22,157

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Ex-IPI chair ordered to pay over $180K attorneys' fees

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Cui Lijie to pay over $180,000 in attorneys' fees and costs no later than June 21.

According to an order by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, the former IPI chairwoman must pay a total of $182,637 in attorneys' fees due to her "continuous violation" of the court's orders regarding the preservation of her Electronically Stored Information or ESI data.

"The violations spanned for nearly a year—from the court's initial preservation order issued on March 26, 2021, that was later amended, until [Cui's] purging of her contempt on March 10. As a result of Ms. Cui's consistent noncompliance with the court's numerous orders, the court awarded plaintiffs attorneys' fees and costs as part of civil contempt sanctions and permitted plaintiffs to submit fee petitions establishing their entitlement to the amount," the judge said.

Manglona stated in her order that it is "unfortunate that the process to obtain a clear explanation from Cui about her ESI data from her various devices and accounts spanned nearly a year and exhausted countless resources" from plaintiffs, Cui, and the court.

Previously, Manglona ordered Cui to pay a total of $42,200 for court-imposed sanctions that stemmed from court's repeatedly finding Cui to be not in compliance with a previous preservation order and contempt order regarding the ESI that she created or used, including emails, and ESI data sent or received by others on her behalf.

Cui

Cui is a third-party witness in the lawsuit of seven construction workers against IPI and its former contractor and subcontractor, MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, both of which have already settled with the plaintiffs. The lawsuit alleged forced labor and trafficking scheme.

Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline represented the plaintiffs: Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan.

Because the $5.4-million default judgment in favor of the plaintiffs against IPI remained unsatisfied, all ESI data held by the former IPI chairwoman remain relevant to the proceeding.

'Stay calm'—PSS commissioner

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada calmed down parents, students, and employees yesterday in the wake of the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 21 people, including 19 children.

In a statement that Ada immediately released to families and PSS employees, he assured that the safety of PSS students is their top priority and that all PSS schools have a comprehensive crisis plan in place to help avoid tragedies.

Ada said that PSS is working closely with the Department of Public Safety "to ensure that our schools are safe." He said DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero has informed PSS that police officers will be patrolling all school campuses within the next few days for precautionary measures.

"I know many of you may feel scared or worried during this time. Rest assured, we are doing everything to keep our students and staff safe. … There is no reason for panic at this moment and I encourage everyone, stay calm as we take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety of our students and staff every day. As always, thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Please join me in positive thoughts to the entire community of Uvalde, Texas" said Ada.

With today, May 26, being the last day of instruction for all PSS schools, students and staff are free for the summer. Still, one parent said she is worried for her child who is in elementary school. "I'm worried but I trust the teachers and staff and I know our schools are safe, but with what happened yesterday, I can't help but worry."

An incoming junior at Marianas High School said, "I'm not too worried. Summer is right there. I feel safe in my school community but I do feel bad for the students who lost their lives yesterday." ***(Leigh Gases)***

GUNMAN

From Page 1

adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, almost a decade ago.

"My heart is broken today," said Hal Harrell, the school district superintendent, announcing that all school activities were canceled until further notice. "We're a small community, and we're going to need your prayers to get through this."

The attack also came just 10 days after a deadly, racist rampage at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket that added to a yearslong series of mass killings at churches, schools and stores. And the prospects for any reform of the nation's gun regulations seemed as dim as in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook deaths.

President Joe Biden appeared ready for a fight, calling for new gun restrictions in an address to the nation hours after the attack.

"As a nation we have to ask, when in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? When in God's name are we going to do what has to be done?" Biden asked. "Why are are willing to live with this carnage?"

Many of the injured were rushed to Uvalde Memorial Hospital, where staff members in scrubs and devastated victims' relatives could be seen weeping as they walked out of the complex.

The gunman, who was wearing body armor, crashed his car outside the school before going inside, Sgt. Erick Estrada of the Texas Department of Public Safety told CNN.

He killed his grandmother before heading to the school with two military-style rifles he had purchased on his birthday, according to state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, who said he had been briefed by state police.

"That was the first thing he did on his 18th birthday," he said.

Officials did not immediately reveal a motive, but the governor identified the assailant as Salvador Ramos and said he was a resident of the community about 85 miles (135 kilometers) west of San Antonio.

GREEN

From Page 1

collided with a Honda Ridgeline pickup truck in the Puerto Rico area of Saipan.

Responding to questioning from his defense counsel, Vina Seelam of the Office of the Public Defender, and speaking through an interpreter, Fabia said he remembers that the incident happened at around 1pm when he and his co-worker, Cristopher Lucero, were headed down to San Vicente from Marpi on the Artman garbage truck he had been driving for year, and they were driving along Beach Road in Puerto Rico.

He said that, based on his memory, when he was approaching the intersection, just before the Army Reserve building, he saw that the intersection light ahead was red. However, when he was right across the Army Reserve area, just a few feet before the intersection, he saw the traffic lights turn green so he did not bother to stop.

Fabia, who claims he was driving a little under the speed limit of 45mph, said he didn't bother to slow down as he neared the intersection because he saw the light had already switched from red to green and he was focused on that, so when he saw the Honda Ridgeline accelerating toward the Smiling Cove Marina, it was already too late.

The driver also testified that he has been operating trucks for over 10 years and he had gotten his eyes tested every two years because truck drivers are required to obtain certification in order to continue driving.

In addition, Fabia said he has been working for Artman for over eight years and frequents the Marpi to San Vicente route. He claims he is familiar with the intersection, the speed limit, and the patterns of the stop light.

Also, Fabia stated that, while driving through the intersection, he did not have a phone on him and he was not talking with his companion as he was focused on the road.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COURT

From Page 1

Abikoff notified the court that IPI was ready to post the $100,000 bond as directed by the court pursuant to filing the TRO.

The court ordered plaintiffs to initiate the $100,000 cash bond to the clerk of court of the District Court by the end of yesterday.

Last Monday, Manglona granted IPI's request for a TRO to prevent the Casino Commission from holding a hearing on May 24 to 25 to revoke IPI's exclusive casino license.

In her order, Manglona directed CCC, its executive director, employees, agents and attorneys, and all persons acting in concert with it or them, to immediately "cease and desist" from proceeding with Enforcement Action 2021-001-005 (consolidated) including convening the enforcement hearing scheduled for May 24 to 25.

One of the main reasons the TRO was granted, Manglona said, was that the potential harm to IPI and its subsidiary, Best Sunshine, should the court decline their motion for a TRO greatly outweighs any harm that the CCC may incur.

Manglona noted that the plaintiffs anticipate receiving $150 million in financing before the end of May to make payments due to the CCC and other creditors and to resume its operations.

In addition, Manglona said, plaintiffs have raised serious questions going to the merits of requiring arbitration pursuant to the Casino License Agreement.

Manglona also stated in her order that if the court declines to grant a temporary restraining order, plaintiffs will incur immediate and irreparable injury because plaintiffs will be deprived of their contractual right to assert a force majeure defense of the Casino License Agreement and a procedural right to the dispute resolution process that allows for arbitration and the opportunity to submit the arbitrator's decision to the Commonwealth Superior Court.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

JIF

From Page 1

pitalizations in 12 states. Most people infected with Salmonella experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Symptoms usually start six hours to six days after consuming the bacteria. Most people recover without treatment after four to seven days. Some people, especially children younger than 5, adults 65 years and older, and people with weakened immune systems, may experience more severe illnesses that require medical treatment or hospitalization.

Call your health care provider if you have one or more of these symptoms after eating recalled peanut butter:

- Diarrhea and a fever higher than 102 degrees Fahrenheit
- Diarrhea for more than 3 days that is not improving
- Bloody diarrhea
- So much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down
- Signs of dehydration, such as:
- Not peeing much
- Dry mouth and throat
- Feeling dizzy when standingup

What should you do if your product is affected by the recall?

Dispose of recalled peanut butter products and wash surfaces and containers that may have touched the recalled peanut butter using hot, soapy water.

Consumers who have questions or would like to report adverse reactions should visit www.jif.com/contact-us or call (800) 828-9980, Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm, Eastern Standard Time.

What can WIC participants do if they purchased recalled Jif products?

Contact the store where you bought the peanut butter so that the store can exchange the recalled peanut butter for a substitute. WIC participants do not need to have a receipt but should bring their eWIC card to make an exchange. If an identical item that is not part of the recall is not available, WIC participants also have the following options for the exchange:

1. Replace with a different brand of peanut butter 2. Replace with 16 ounces of legumes (dry beans)

For more information, call (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email the director of Environmental Health Disease Prevention John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@chcc.health. WIC participants can call (670) 664-4084 or 287-9717. ***(CHCC)***

PETER

From Page 2

tin a compromising situation to have to identify its own revenue stream, potentially impairing its independence.

Peter said H.B. 22-102 asserts that OPA's 1% fee would violate federal entitlement for the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

She said to date, there has not been a determination that OPA's 1% fee puts CPA or other agencies at a financial risk with their federal grantors.

Peter said since she took office, she has taken steps to meet with various agencies to discuss OPA's 1% fee but the agencies have taken their concerns lightly and this issue continues to be unresolved due to almost 26 years of noncompliance with the law.

She requested Villagomez to consider the potential consequences of waiving this debt and reducing OPA's budget.

The public auditor said the CNMI government has been receiving an unprecedented amount of federal money and the demands for OPA's services have never been higher.

"We will not be able to adequately meet our mandate of detecting fraud, waste, and abuse of funds if we have to reduce our budget," she said.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHT AND HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of light and heavy duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-016, Supply and Delivery of Light and Heavy Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 23, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-014

SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE II
(ROYAL PALM AVENUE AND GINGER AVENUE – GARAPAN)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-014, Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan)**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding if the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC's Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC's Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project
RFP22-GOV-42200110

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to deliver, supply, and install a generator set and renovate the existing generator house at the HOPE Recovery Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning **May 26, 2022** between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the **HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi conference room at 10:00 a.m. on June 13, 2022.**

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office attn.: Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **June 22, 2022**.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3. Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4. Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 210 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP22-GOV-42200110 HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950 no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, July 8, 2022**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 a.m., ChST, July 8, 2022** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than **July 20, 2022**. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

INVITATION FOR BID
HOPE Recovery Center Typhoon Shutters Project
ITB22-GOV-42200109

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth"), is soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at the HOPE Recovery Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The ITB package will be available from the Office of the Governor, HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 starting **May 26, 2022**, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CNMI Treasurer by cash or credit in the amount of $50.00 for one ITB package set.

All interested bidders must include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Bidding procedures shall fully comply with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **June 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the HOPE Recovery Center located in Marpi, Saipan**. Questions or requests for clarification shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **June 22, 2022**. Responses to questions or clarification will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-42200109 HOPE Recovery Center Typhoon Shutters Project"**. One original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST July 8, 2022.** Bidders outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days to receive their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST July 8, 2022**, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. BOX 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **July 20, 2022**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be a cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950, at **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open and read at **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 8, 2022.**

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the **CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660"**. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, **each equal to 100%** of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has the authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement Services Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only 1) Cash, 2) U.S. Government Securities, 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange, 4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completing this project is 180 calendar days upon issuing a Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the CNMI.

The Government reserves the right to reject any proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the CNMI. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Build on insulin affordability reform

Access to insulin can be a matter of life or death for those with diabetes, a disease that more than 37 million Americans live with. But the drug's soaring price can alarmingly put it out of reach of those who need it.

"The price of insulin has risen inexplicably over the past 20 years at a rate far higher than the rate of inflation," according to an analysis published in Mayo Clinic Proceedings in 2020. "One vial of Humalog, which used to cost $21 in 1999, costs $332 in 2019, reflecting a price increase of more than 1000%."

The cost of other drugs has risen during the same time, of course. Ideally, Congress would swiftly pass a remedy to ensure that all medications are affordable. But that isn't realistic given deepening political divides and the even deeper pockets of pharmaceutical industry lobbyists.

What is doable is passing a targeted reform to help make insulin more affordable for those whose lives depend on it. This spring, there was laudable momentum to enact such a fix, with the U.S. House passing the Affordable Insulin Now Act championed by Rep. Angie Craig, a Minnesota Democrat.

The challenge now is to sustain that moment and ensure the Senate also acts on insulin affordability this year. This will be no small feat after the leaked release of a U.S. Supreme Court opinion involving another medical issue—abortion. That high-profile issue is critical, but it should not overshadow other urgent health care reforms, such as insulin access.

Craig's leadership on insulin is commendable. In 2017, a young Minnesotan's death tragically spotlighted the nation's insulin cost crisis. Alec Smith, 26, had just aged off his mother's health plan. He couldn't afford insulin and died after trying to ration it.

Minnesota legislators responded with compassionate common sense in 2020 when they passed the state's pioneering emergency insulin assistance bill. Those who meet its reasonable eligibility guidelines can quickly get a 30-day supply for $35 from local pharmacies. Other states, such as Colorado, have also passed insulin affordability measures.

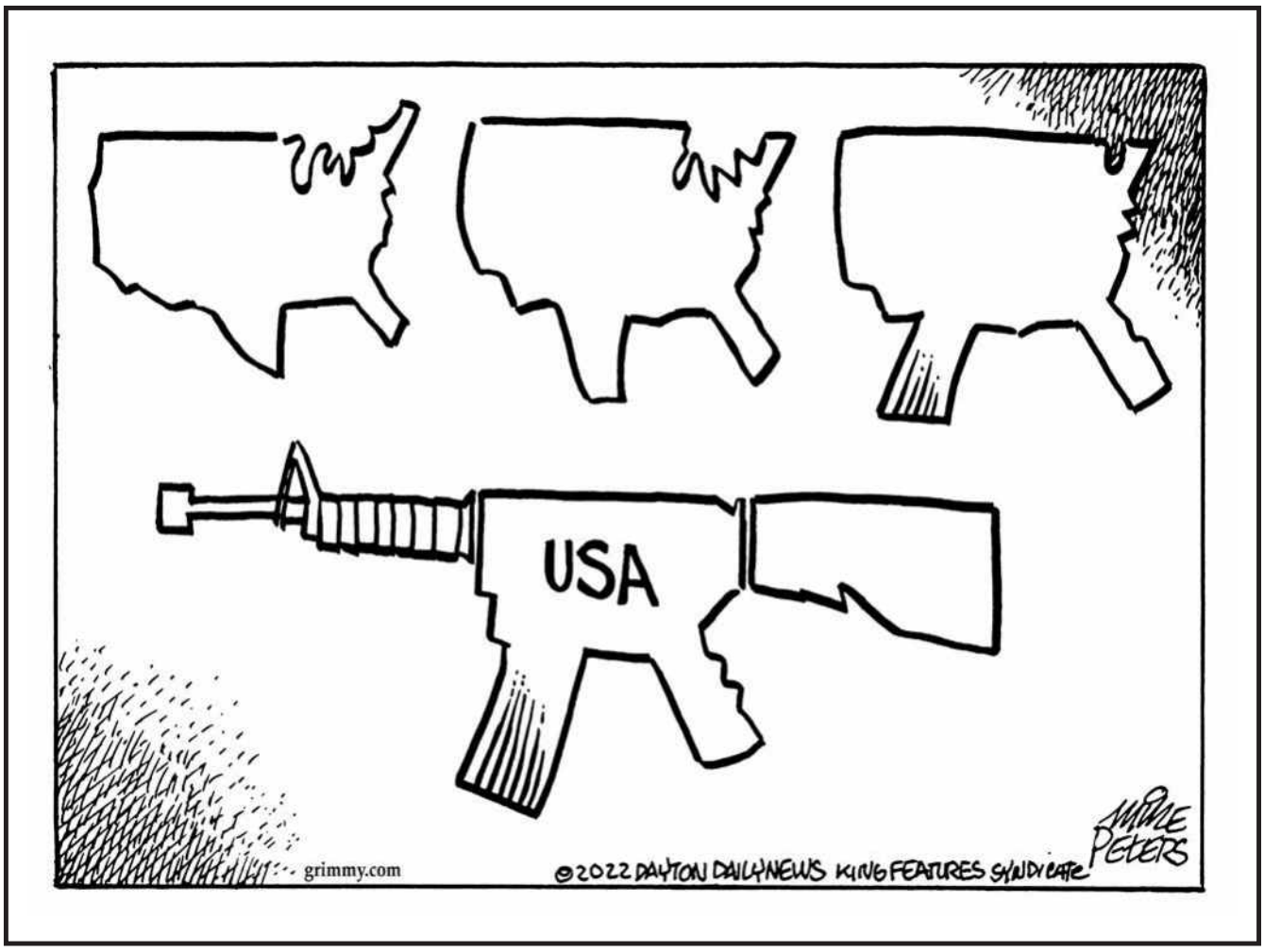
But access to this critical drug shouldn't depend on where you live. That's why federal reform covering all 50 states is so important.

Craig's bill, if enacted, would cap insured individuals' out-of-pocket insulin costs at $35 a month. A critical caveat: that price ceiling only applies to those with health insurance. It also doesn't get at the root of soaring insulin costs.

This bill is not a panacea, Craig acknowledged in an interview with an editorial writer. Nevertheless, it is still a strong step forward and would help many families struggling with insulin costs, which can be daunting even for those who have health insurance.

"The average commercial insurance plan in my district ... they're paying up to $300 or $400 a month in copays for their insulin. So to be able to cap the out-of-pocket cost of

See BUILD on Next Page



The catastrophic success of China's zero-COVID policy

By JEREMY L. WALLACE
Los Angeles Times

Jeremy L. Wallace, an associate professor of government at Cornell University, is the author of the forthcoming Seeking Truth and Hiding Facts: Information, Ideology, and Authoritarianism in China.

For two years, it seemed as though China's ruthless COVID-19 policy had paid off. After stumbling in its initial efforts to stem the pandemic, China's rulers fixed a simple numeric target—zero COVID cases—and made sure everyone knew they had to reach it. The results looked severe to Western eyes, but they stopped the virus's spread. They also gave China a propaganda victory, emboldening their claims that authoritarian governments could solve social problems better than liberal democracies, which in worrying too much about people's civil rights, ended up killing them instead.

Now, the costs of the China's rigidity are becoming apparent. New variants are much harder to control; more than half of China's largest cities have seen lockdowns. Weeks after its lockdown began, some in Shanghai remain trapped in their apartments indefinitely, with many growing increasingly angry and hungry. A slew of figures shows a cratering economy in April. China's refusal to change course demonstrates the weaknesses, not the strengths, of China's system. Once its leaders have settled on a number like zero, it's very hard for them to change.

Many Western observers rely on simplistic models of how China works. They imagine the Chinese government as a monolith, where leaders issue edicts that are flawlessly carried out by local agents. The reality is much messier. The Chinese state is a bewildering patchwork of bureaucratic fiefdoms, each run by petty tyrants trying to retain the favor of the party leadership, while pursuing their own self-interest.

China's leaders have managed their fractious underlings by giving them clear numeric targets. Central leaders set GDP growth targets for provincial officials, who then do the same for city leaders in their region, and so on with counties down the line. Promotions followed from strong performance on these metrics, demotions from failure.

For decades this limited quantified vision worked to produce strong GDP performance. But over time problems accumulated. The predictable result, as my research demonstrates, was that lower officials juked the stats. Some simply faked the numbers, and others used policies, such as boosting construction, that increased short-run GDP at the cost of mounting debts to fund vacant airports, little-used highways and empty buildings on the edge of shrinking cities. Such efforts to hit their targets happened because these officials had more reason to care about their superiors than the people their policies affected.

Fifteen years ago, China's then-premier Wen Jiabao laid out his concerns about what this system produced, calling China's economy "unstable, unbalanced, uncoordinated, and unsustainable." But even with all of the political changes that Xi Jinping has wrought, moving away from GDP targeting has proved elusive.

Now, we are seeing the same dynamic unfold with the zero-COVID policy.

The policy's key strength was its clear numeric target, which China's leaders used to measure their subordinates' performance. But this success has proved increasingly catastrophic. It has led officials to produce questionable numbers (the official death rate is … remarkably low), to separate parents from their children, to withhold medical care from those with other ailments, and to confine citizens—with a food system near the breaking point—to try to achieve an increasingly impossible goal.

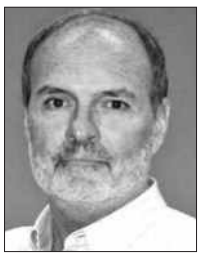
China's regime is trapped by its previous success. It has centered much of its propaganda on the superiority of zero-COVID and the Chinese system of rule. Altering the policy might be taken as an implicit admission that the Chinese model is not so successful after all. Hence the current situation, where China's local and national leaders probably realize that continuing the zero-COVID policy is a mistake, but no one feels secure enough to take the risk of fixing it.

One key lesson is that complex authoritarian systems such as China are less nimble than they seem at first sight. Numeric targets allow the central leadership to influence their underlings—but at the expense of giving them tunnel vision and the incentive to fudge the figures when they can. And sometimes, when the targets do succeed for a while, they become traps, tempting the regime to identify too closely with a measure that then leads it to adopt increasingly irrational policies even when reality demands change.

It's hard for China's leaders to relax the zero-COVID policy, even if they can see its destructive consequences.

WTF? Are we wearing out the F-word?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

On one of my regular browsing excursions through Barnes & Noble, I came across a book display entitled: "Path to Personal Growth."

Prominent, of course, was "How to Win Friends and Influence People," Dale Carnegie's famous self-help book, which has sold over 15 million copies since its publication in 1936.

Arrayed around this classic volume were more modern offerings such as: "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck," "Unf*ck Yourself," "Calm the F*ck Down," "F*ck Feelings" and "I Used to Be a Miserable F*ck."

What the f*ck is going on? Is it possible that we're overusing the F-word?

It's the classic cuss word, and it packs more power into its four letters than any other. Much of its strength probably derives from its literal meaning, but it's extraordinarily adaptable linguistically to uses that have nothing to do with sex.

In its versatility, the F-word can express everything from insult (F*ck off) to bewilderment (WTF?) to aggrieved resignation (Aw, f*ck it), as well as a great deal in between.

In short, the F-word is one of our most potent and adaptable words. But does its overuse threaten its power, like crying "Wolf!" once too often?

So far the word appears to retain its capacity to draw attention to itself, and thus the five books listed above, as well as many others, use it in their titles. And it's still sufficiently outrageous and naughty to incline publishers to use the asterisk instead of the "u," as I do here. (The use of the asterisk is probably mildly ironic and facetious; few Americans over the age of 8 are fooled.)

And the word still has the capacity to elevate eyebrows, even if only slightly, especially in mixed company or among children. When Attorney General William Barr testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair Lindsey Graham spent an inordinate amount of time reading from emails exchanged between former FBI agents Lisa Page and Peter Strzok.

Graham quoted one of the emails aloud on national television: "Trump is a f*cking idiot," not bothering to bleep out the word in question. He immediately added, "Sorry to the kids out there." So evidently the F-word still retains its power to shock and discomfit. But for how long?

I started thinking about this a few years ago when I was teaching writing at a large community college in South Texas. I noticed one day that one of my classes of young freshmen was beginning to sound like the fo'c'sle of a navy destroyer.

Many years ago, I was a Navy man, and I harbor no undue sanctimony about one of the most powerful cuss words in the language; I put it to use myself occasionally.

But my message for my students was twofold: First, any word loses its power through careless overuse; and, second, writing well (and speaking well) is largely about making choices. The precise, well-chosen word is a scalpel, not a hammer. And if you begin to use a hammer on everything, it doesn't do the hammer or its object any good.

On the other hand, sometimes a hammer is just the right thing. Former President Donald Trump got it right when he first learned that a special counsel had been appointed to investigate the Trump campaign's connections with Russia. He reportedly slumped in his presidential chair and said, "I'm f*cked."

So this versatile hammer can express despair, as well. And a version of this apt term is appropriate to describe what Trump did to our country and its democratic norms, as well as the despair that we might feel over his continuing threats against them.

But it's too soon for despair. George Orwell noted the connection between good writing and good thinking: Careful, precise writing (and speaking) reinforces careful, precise thinking. Our country is currently in dire need of both. Which probably means that we should put the F-word to less frequent but better and more thoughtful use. As Trump knows, sometimes no other word will do. It's nice to have it there when we really need it.

Governments should stop trying to make gasoline cheaper

By JULIAN LEE
Bloomberg Opinion

Julian Lee is an oil strategist for Bloomberg First Word. Previously, he was a senior analyst at the Centre for Global Energy Studies.

The oil market is screaming at consumers to rein in their use of fuel. Governments are doing everything they can to have us to buy, buy, buy. But there can only be one winner in this battle, and it won't be our elected representatives—or us.

In March, just after the U.K. government announced a yearlong cut in fuel duty, Javier Blas argued that governments were pursuing the wrong energy policies in encouraging, rather than curbing, fuel demand. He was absolutely right. Evidence of policymakers' errors is mounting, yet they are doing nothing to correct their mistakes. If anything, they're only making matters worse.

Pump prices for gasoline and diesel are hitting new highs around the world. In the U.S., gasoline topped $4 a gallon in all 50 states last week for the first time ever, and the peak driving season hasn't even kicked off yet. National average prices for both gasoline and diesel fuel are above previous highs set during the oil price spike of 2008.

In the U.K., forecourt prices are setting new, unwelcome records, despite a 5-pence-a-liter cut in fuel duty that came into effect in late March. That should have translated into a 6-pence drop in prices, as a 20% value added tax is levied on top of the fuel duty. But any benefit was short-lived. Underlying supply and demand pressures have already pushed prices for both fuels back above pre-cut levels.

The problem is fuel stockpiles are at multi-year lows. Inventories of middle distillates—which include diesel, heating oil and jet fuel—across the developed economies of the OECD nations were at their lowest in more than 12 years at the end of March. On the U.S. East Coast, inventories of those same fuels have fallen to levels not previously seen in data going back to 1990. Gasoline stockpiles in the same region fell to their lowest since 2014.

If governments need more evidence that supplies of transport fuels are tight, they should look at the difference between prompt and future prices for fuels. The backwardation in road-fuel markets (where prompt prices exceed those for future delivery, indicating immediate supply shortages) is bigger than it was during 2008, when crude prices hit $150 a barrel.

Rather than recognize that fuel demand needs to come down, governments around the world are doing all they can to prop it up—slashing taxes, maintaining subsidies or berating retailers for allegedly failing to pass on tax cuts in full. A bill making it illegal to sell consumer fuel at a price that's "unconscionably excessive" and exploitative is being debated in Washington. Meanwhile, in London, UK Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng urged fuel retailers to give drivers a "fair deal" and warned that the Competition and Markets Authority is now engaged on this issue.

While popular, reducing fuel prices is only going to make the situation worse, as demand for transport fuels picks up during the northern hemisphere summer. And the pain won't be limited to road transport. Airlines may well bring back fuel surcharges in the coming months; indeed, Portuguese airline TAP already plans an increase, noting it's "inevitable that, in the short term, travel prices will increase."

Cutting taxes at fuel pumps, as the U.K. government and others have done, provides some small and very temporary relief for drivers. But by making fuel more affordable, demand is stimulated relative to what it would otherwise have been. That simply puts more pressure on a supply chain that's already creaking, driving the pre-tax price higher and quickly wiping out any benefit from the cut.

Painful and unpopular though it is, governments need to let the market work. Those who need help should be targeted specifically, whether they be hauliers or the less well-off.

Fuel prices will keep rising unless demand is destroyed to meet available supply. Reducing pump prices through tax cuts is simply prolonging the pain.

BUILD

From Page 6

insulin at $35 a month," Craig said, would be "life-changing for people who have access to insurance."

All of Minnesota's Republican House representatives voted against Craig's bill. All of the state's House Democrats voted for it. Minnesota's U.S. senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, both Democrats, are co-sponsors of the Senate companion bill. Smith has also championed a federal emergency insulin assistance bill akin to Minnesota's pioneering reform.

The Senate companion bill to Craig's legislation likely faces an uphill battle in a closely divided chamber. An "insulin-only bill would need 60 votes to pass in the Senate, instead of a simple majority," according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Other insulin cost reforms are under consideration in the Senate that could expand bipartisan support. Families struggling to afford insulin can't wait. Action and bipartisanship are urgently needed.

© 2022 *Star Tribune*

Southern Baptist Convention must confront its own sexual abuse scandal

A third-party organization brought in by the Southern Baptist Convention to investigate allegations of systemic sexual abuse within the nation's largest Protestant denomination found its leaders ignored and even "vilified" the victims, and knew more about the perpetrators than they admitted. The abuses occurred over a two-decade period, accentuating the conference's longtime image problem as an organization whose conservative leadership remains mired in outdated racial and gender attitudes.

Media reporting in recent years has documented hundreds of cases of alleged abuse by Baptist preachers and others in the convention. The organization might well have mimicked the Catholic church's initial response of circling the wagons and stonewalling, if not for pressure by reformers within the organization. At a national Southern Baptist gathering last year, thousands of delegates demanded an independent probe. The organization ultimately acquiesced, bringing in the independent firm Guidepost Solutions.

Its lengthy report, released Sunday, confirms some of the worst of the allegations and brings new ones to light. The report says abuse survivors, including children and adult women, were met, "time and again, with resistance, stonewalling, and even outright hostility" from convention leaders. Three former presidents of the convention were identified as having protected abusers, and one allegedly committed sexual assault.

The report found that Southern Baptist leaders "were singularly focused on avoiding liability for the SBC" rather than confronting the alleged abusers.

"In service of this goal, survivors and others who reported abuse were ignored, disbelieved, or met with the constant refrain that the SBC could take no action … even if it meant that convicted molesters continued in ministry with no notice or warning to their current church or congregation," states the report.

Perhaps most startling—and most reminiscent of the Catholic church's myriad abuse scandals—is that the SBC knew who the accused were but did nothing to warn the flock. The report specifies that one top staffer maintained a list of Baptist ministers accused of abuse, yet the organization took no action to confront them or ensure they weren't continuing to pose a threat to their followers.

Some critics within the organization have long called for the convention to create a database of accused ministers so members could protect themselves, but the organization has refused. The revelation that the convention was already engaged in some version of that record-keeping, and had simply refused to share it with members, is especially galling.

The report recommends that the convention create a permanent entity to oversee reforms related to misconduct, that it create and maintain an offender-information system for the Baptist community and that it restrict the use of non-disclosure agreements often used to protect the accused in legal settlements.

Southern Baptist Convention leaders this week expressed a willingness to embrace those and other reforms. If they have indeed heeded the lessons, they will follow through on those promises.

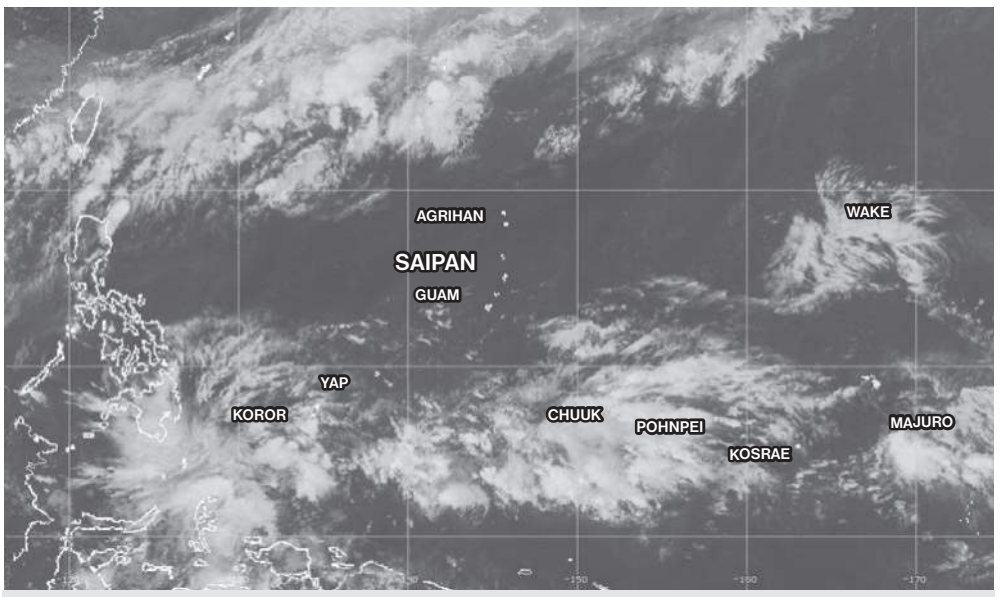
© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 8 to 11 mph.	Partly sunny, with Isolated showers. East southeast wind around 8 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy, with a chance of showers & thunderstorms.
88º 75º	91º 75º	88º 75º	85º 79º	92º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:7:57 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. It also shows isolated showers and thunderstorms to the east-southeast and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms at the far southeastern area of coverage. These are due to the TUTT lying just southeast of the islands. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell and east-southeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	32 / 26 °F
Palau	Isolated Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	29/ 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:41 PM
Friday	05:46 AM	18:41 PM
Saturday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Sunday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Monday	05:45 AM	18:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	02:10	14:22 PM	-
Friday	02:46	15:12 PM	-
Saturday	03:23	16:01 PM	-
Sunday	03:59	16:51 PM	-
Monday	03:58	07:42 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	17 / 9 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	33 / 16 °F
Hong Kong	AM Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	28 / 22 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 11 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	24 / 15 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	34 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Rain	16 / 12 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
New York	Cloudy	19 / 16 °F
Osaka	PM Rain	26 / 19 °F
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	23 / 13 °F
Busan	AM Clouds/PM Sun	24 / 16 °F
Rome	AM Clouds/PM Sun	33 / 21 °F
Salem	Thunderstorms	24 / 17 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	16/ 11 °F
Seoul	Sunny	24 / 16 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	26 / 19 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	22 / 19 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
04:47 AM	High Tide	2.06
11:38 AM	Low Tide	0.57
5:38 PM	High Tide	1.67
11:10 PM	Low Tide	0.90

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 16, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Monday & Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Monday & Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

PAY IT FORWARD

Promoting non-profits one sponsorship at a time

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

MAY | 26 | 2022

The joys of volunteerism

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

There are over 1 billion volunteers worldwide, whose efforts are equal to 109 million full-time workers, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S Department of Labor. Of that staggering number, 57% of informal volunteering around the world is done by women, says the bureau.

In the CNMI, it would be fair to that a good amount of the population is or has been a volunteer in some form or another, as there are close to or more than 70 non-profit organizations in the Commonwealth.

Three such community members—Joann Aquino, Dr. Bobby Cruz, and Eloise Rose Lopez—work full-time jobs and juggle various responsibilities in their lives, yet are also volunteers committed to finding joy and purpose in helping other people and the community.

Focus on others

Aquino, who is the current director of field operations at the Saipan Mayor's Office, is also the community service director for the Rotary Club of Saipan and is the ombudsman for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves Guam-CNMI, or ESGR, where she briefs soldiers and their employers on the USERRA, or the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which protect the civilian employment of active and reserve military personnel in the United States called to active duty.

At the Rotary, Aquino enjoys implementing fun activities that benefit the entire community such as the recent Easter Egg-Stravaganza and the Halloween Event that will now

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joann T. Aquino, second from right is shown being presented with the ESGR Guam-CNMI Volunteer of the Year Award for 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

be signature events for the Rotary Club of Saipan.

With all these different roles she plays in the community, Aquino is often asked how she manages to juggle the multiple projects she takes part in. She describes it as being "a different kind of busy…that improves my mental health and well-being."

Being involved with all these organizations, along with her family and personal life, and traveling quite often, Aquino said she does not necessarily have all the time, but has the heart to serve the community in other capacities. "It gives me a sense of personal growth and achievement when I can make a difference in our community," she said.

Aquino's efforts with the ESGR has not gone unnoticed. In fact, she was named the CNMI Volunteer of the Year for 2021 during an award presentation in Guam two weeks ago.

Aquino appeals to people who have not tried volunteering or are hesitant on where to start to just take the plunge. She said a Helen Keller quote that resonates with her is, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Along with this, she shares the Rotary's motto, which is, "Service above self."

"We are not the focus, but rather caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own," added Aquino.

Spirit of *Inafa' maolek*

Cruz is another such avid volunteer. Currently the director of Instructional Technology & Distance Learning at the Public School System, Cruz is also the program committee chair for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, among many other responsibilities.

Cruz said he has been volunteering since childhood and has carried that trait into adulthood. He participated in many clubs and community and church organizations that promoted service, from beach cleanups to walkathons, to

Dr. Bobby Cruz. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

peer tutoring, to volunteer leadership positions.

"I have always enjoyed being involved and collaborating with others to do good for the community. Volunteerism naturally became an important part of my core values, and it has remained into adulthood," he said.

Cruz has served the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Samaritan's Purse, the Marianas Youth Professionals, Pride Marianas, Pride Marianas Youth, and the NMI Humanities Council, among other groups.

When he volunteers for any of these causes and organizations, Cruz said he feels "a deep sense of humility and gratitude. My family and I don't come from wealth, and at one point in time we were the benefactors of many wonderful life-giving organizations and received help during difficult times from people in our community. So, when I volunteer, it's my way of paying it forward, using the privileges that I have now to help others."

Volunteering and community service have become part of Cruz's identity, He said it gives him a sense of purpose, a sense of community, and an opportunity to give back. "It is also fun! It's fun to meet new people and volunteer together. When you see the fruits of your labor having a positive impact on the lives of people in the community, it warms the spirit and gives you an unmatched feeling of fulfillment," he added.

In appealing for people to volunteer, Cruz points out that everyone has privileges and gifts that they enjoy, whether it is wealth, specialized knowledge and skill, or time to help with their hands. "Whatever your privilege is, consider using it to help others. Life is a journey filled with many obstacles, and at some point in time, we will all need help. So in the spirit of reciprocity, consider what you can contribute to our community, and give with the heart of *inafa' maolek*, to do good," he said.

Young volunteer

Lopez embodies the idea that volunteering is also possible even among the young.

Lopez, 24, who just obtained her associate degree in Natural Resource Management from the Northern Marianas College, said her time at the college was not purely only about academics. She has served her fellow students and community through her role as student representative for the Associated Students of NMC. She is also an advocate for the environment, ocean conservation and stewardship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eloise Lopez, second from right, is seen here with fellow volunteers for 500 Sails and Project HOPE.

through her participation in NMC's Environmental Natural Resource Organization Club and Project H.O.P.E. She was also an active member and vice president through the NMC ENRO Club at the Friends of the Mariana Trench.

Lopez said that volunteering has always been her passion. She started volunteering when she was 10 years old. "I started going to the beach cleanups, started singing in the children's and youth choir, started joining different organizations and that is where I found my passion for ocean conservation and why I gained my [degree]. …Helping others is what eases my soul to keep going. I feel like volunteering and just helping others is my way to show that I have done my deed and will continue to do so. …The connection from a variety of people is what I get from volunteering. That is where I learn how to see myself as a leader and become capable of handling relationships and responsibilities at the same time. I learned to seek skills or new opportunities by volunteering. With this passion I hold, I want to show other people, especially children, to do the same and find themselves in different areas of adventure!"

Lopez appeals to the youth in the CNMI to volunteer in any cause or organization that interests them. "You may not get paid for the time you did but you will get something bigger out of every opportunity you partake in. Explore and do not settle for less. If you want to know more about yourself or know what you want to do for your career in the future, take a chance to volunteer and participate in as many events as you can. You might not know that volunteering in different types of events will lead you to an opportunity of a lifetime!"

Lopez currently works full time at the Non-Communicable Diseases Program of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as a Pacific Public Health Fellow and works part-time at Marianas High School as a high dosage tutor and a night time English teacher.

These three are only a small portion of the CNMI community that selflessly give their time to the various organizations, big or small, on Saipan. They embody the truth that the joys in volunteerism can be found anywhere, that making a difference in the community can be done not only through big donations. It can be found through the little things, through little time invested in an organization or cause, or just showing up to pick up trash at the beach or in your village, that the joy of volunteerism is boundless.

Seniors 2021

GCA
GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Missions Convention 2022

Grace Christian Academy
OPEN ENROLLMENT

GCA is accredited both by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the commission of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

Kindergarten 2022

GCA provides the following:

- Strong academic programs K4 through 12th grade
- ESL Program with certified instructor
- College preparatory program
- Safe, secure environment
- Biblical character training and development
- Extra-curricular academic and sports programs
- Certified instructors
- Face-to-face instruction

JV Volleyball 2022

GCA IS ALSO PART OF THE U.S. STUDENT AND VISITOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND ACCEPTS FOREIGN STUDENTS.

Elementary Soccer Team

Fully Accredited by WASC ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

ACSI ACCREDITED

Grace Christian Academy is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, please call **322-3320/3850**

The Salvation Army in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

THE SALVATION ARMY ®

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

All our operations are mobile and the primary programs are a Mobile Soup Kitchen and Mobile Food Bank. Please note that we do not have a Thrift Store.

We provide meals and bulk food assistance from our mobile soup kitchen at various schedules and locations around the island. Please check our Facebook page for updates.

FEMA

We are grateful to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which provides annual funding for food and other supplies, through its Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).

We are also grateful to Bank of Hawaii for providing funds for operations and overhead. Bank of Hawaii is a faithful donor and our feeding programs would not exist without their generosity.

THANK YOU

We would also like to thank our local individual and corporate donors who provide critical support in the form of funds and donations of food.

We welcome donations of non-perishable food, such as canned meats, canned vegetables and peanut butter. We also welcome donations of pasta and bags of rice. Cash is the most needed donation and helps us to pay for our overhead. Checks can be made out to "The Salvation Army"

CHURCH SERVICES:

Our Capitol Hill service is at 10:00 a.m. and meets in the green house at the corner of Isa Drive and Marshall Loop Road, acrosss the street from Ton Goru (used to be Escos). Church attendance is NOT required for those wishing to eat.

Contact us through CNMI Salvation Army

'NGOs: The heartbeat of the community'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With more or less 70 non-government organizations in the CNMI, some are more known than others and it is a given that there may be some that you may or may not have heard of. All of these organizations share one purpose, though, and that is to help the CNMI community.

Maisie B. Tenorio, who chairs the board of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, or MANGO, said that non-profit organizations have a significant impact on the community as a whole and with the specific group of people that they provide services to.

"We have always talked about non-profit organizations as sort of being like the heartbeat of the community. They are very connected with citizens, they are aware of what the needs are, where the gaps are, and what the different communities are facing. Nonprofit organizations are usually created in response to what the community needs," said Tenorio.

There are a lot of examples within the CNMI of non-profit organizations that cater to the various niche needs of its people. In her example, Tenorio cited the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, which addresses some of the immediate environmental concerns of the community, and Karidat, which carries out social services such as providing food, shelter, and rental assistance.

"Each non-profit organization is created in response to a specific need that the community has. So understanding that, we know that they have a significant impact because they're directly serving the community and many of them do so. Over the years, sometimes the needs change, and that's why non-profit organizations are so special, that because they are so connected with the community, they are able to pivot and change and address different needs as they come up," added Tenorio.

Along with changing times and changing needs of the community it serves, there are some non-profits that do not thrive. It's not necessarily because of neglect, no time put into it, or lack of funds, but because running non-profit organizations also requires some administrative tasks to make them sustainable, such as payroll, marketing, media outreach, etc.

"Non-profits are created because somebody has a passion to help and oftentimes, they just want to help the community. …However, running a non-profit also has an administrative side. There is the side that you get to work directly with the community and provide services, but in order for the organization to be sustained, there's also an administrative side that has to do with payroll taxes, financial management policies, or personnel policies," Tenorio said. "There's an entire administrative side that goes into sustaining a non-profit, and oftentimes people who just have the passion to do the work may not have the capacity to address the administrative needs of their organization."

That is where MANGO comes in, Tenorio said, and why MANGO is so important—it handles those back-side issues of running a sustainable nonprofit.

"One of the things that we did notice a long time ago was that a lot of non-profits needed support in that [administrative] area. People with a passion to help the community might not even know how to create a non-profit. …MANGO was created in response to that—to support non-profits, to make them sustainable so that they can keep doing the amazing work that they're doing in the community."

MANGO was established in 2010 in response to this critical need to provide the non-profit community of the CNMI with guidance on how to register a non-profit organization with the CNMI and federal governments, obtain tax-exempt status, pursue funding opportunities, and to give the non-profit sector a collective voice in the community and at local, regional, and international forums.

> **"That's why non-profit organizations are so special, that because they are so connected with the community, they are able to pivot and change and address different needs as they come up"**

"Our objective is to ensure that existing and new non-profits become financially independent and self-sufficient," said the group in a recent news release.

Being part of the board of directors for MANGO, being a part of the board of directors for the Public School System, and being the founder and executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, which is 15 years up and running this year, Tenorio has a couple of tips for those who are planning to start a non-profit and for current non-profits to keep thriving:

"The number one thing that I had to learn the hard way is to ask for help. Ask for help. If you don't know what it is that you need to do, just ask for help. Because now there are organizations like MANGO who are experts at things with regards to non-profit. That's the first thing."

"The second thing is to stay connected, to connect to the mission, to stay connected to the community. For me, those are the two things that you need to do, because oftentimes, you can get lost, you can be like, you have this mission, and that's all you can see—this tunnel vision to get from point A to point B. But things happen, things change, sometimes outside in your periphery, things are happening, and you don't see it, because you're so laser-focused. Take time to stay connected to everything that's happening around you so that you can make changes if necessary, and serve your community in the way that they need to be served at that moment. Because it can be different this year than last year. It always changes."

Tenorio relates back to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, which makes sure to "listen" to the community.

"We do listening sessions, where we gather people and we ask them what they think about domestic violence. What do you think about sexual assault, what's happening within your community? For example, LGBTQIA+ folks or faith-based folks, or even CW workers, or men, women, students, because oftentimes there's a shared lived experience between the group and that helps the conversation flow.

"So we really try to organize these groups, so that's how we stay connected. And then, of course, through social media. There are survivors constantly messaging us or connecting with us there, too. And then all of our other outreach events, radio, family, fun days, things like that. Those all have a dual purpose, providing education, but also putting us in the community where we need to be."

Tenorio said that service is just something she has always done and tries to raise her children that way too. "It's the concept of paying it forward. …If somebody has ever done you kindness, if you can look back on your life and think about all the times that somebody has done you a kindness, take the opportunity to pay it forward by volunteering. There's so many different non-profits that need help. That can be anything from organizing or folding clothes with Empty Vessel, or organizing all of their donations, to Saipan Cares for Animals, just coming and playing with the animals. There's so many ways that you can pay it forward. If somebody has ever done you a kindness, if somebody has ever helped you in your life, you can pay it forward by volunteering for a non-profit. There's always something to do and help, whether it's in your own neighborhood or with one of these nonprofits."

Tenorio said that big or small corporations also have an impact on supporting non-profit organizations, whether in cash or in kind.

"Every organization, whether a for-profit or non-profit, there are values that you build your organization upon. Look at those values, analyze them, evaluate them, and see how you can embody them in your organization. Oftentimes, that includes service, that includes kindness. The values include things like respect. …How you can embody those in your organization…is definitely through service. It's getting out there and helping the people that bring profit into your organization and giving back to your community. The TSL Foundation is a great example of a company that does that. I know that very early, the foundation was one of the earliest funders for the coalition, with small donations here and there. But you know, in the very beginning, every dollar counts."

JUSTINE NAUTA

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organization's Lemmai-Mei Nonprofit Incubator Project executive director Frances M. Sablan, front row, third from left, sits with MANGO chair, Maisie B. Tenorio, front row, fourth from left, and MANGO board, MANGO Lemmai-Mei project staff, and attendees at MANGO's open house last Jan. 21 at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

staycation PACKAGE
1 night in our deluxe gardenview room
swimming pool access
all day happy hour
*$140
+15% tax | $161.00 total

breakfast PACKAGE
1 night in our deluxe gardenview room
swimming pool
all day happy hour
breakfast for two(2) adults
*$160
+15% tax | $184.00 total

dine & relax PACKAGE
1 night in our deluxe gardenview room
swimming pool | all day happy hour
steak night, seafood night or
sunday brunch for two(2) adults
*$190
+15% tax | $218.50 total

large family PACKAGE
accommodates eight(8) guests
1 night in two (2) adjoining
deluxe large gardenview rooms
includes 2 free pizzas!
*$320
+15% tax | $368.00 total

*cnmi & guam resident rates | available from 5/1/22—6/30/22
for reservations & more info : (670) 322-1234 ext. 772

APC AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan

*cnmi & guam resident rates—valid ID required | 15% tax will be added | may not be combined with other promos | benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash | facilities & benefits for the use of guests, during stay duration only

mina
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

MISSION/VISION

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) environmental organization, founded in 2005 by a group of dedicated volunteers passionate about the conservation of the CNMI's precious natural resources.

Implementing community and science based conservation programs, MINA promotes to enhance Micronesia's environments and cultures through sustainability and empowering communities for conservation.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

1 WHO DO WE SERVE?
MINA serves the community through the promotion and advocacy for the protection and conservation of our natural resources.

2 HOW TO HELP?
Register to be a MINA volunteer on our website!
minapacific.org

3 WAYS TO GIVE
SAVE THE DATE for MINA's annual Green Gala, set for October 7, 2022, and check our social media pages on Facebook MINAPACIFIC and instagram @minaoutreach.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE ORGANIZATION

Roberta Guerrero
Executive Director

Becky Furey
Director of Programs

Jolly Ann Cruz
Program Manager for Outreach and Education

Dave Benavente
Program Manager for Marine Science

Wayne Dawe
Lead Tasi Watch Ranger

Joseph Nekaifes, Selina Taitano, Anthony Tenorio Jr., Andrea Roberto, Daniel Ogumoro, Jerry Kintol, Jether Yobech, Laurina Sebaklim, Ian Iriarte
Tasi Watch Rangers

MINA's Volunteer Board of Directors:
Fran Castro, Chair
Somia Quan, Vice Chair
Ron Smith, Secretary
Dave Guerrero, Treasurer
Sean Frink, Legal Counsel
Frankie Eliptico, Board Member
Don Hess, Board Member

National Team

Men's Program

Women's Program

Youth Program

Goalkeeper

Coaching Program

Referee Program

NMIFA-PSS Inter Scholastic Soccer League4

Physical Education Program

OUR VISION

The NMIFA seeks to transform our community by inspiring people through football.

OUR MISSION

To provide the Northern Mariana Islands with a professionally - structured football organization that will accommodate and encourage players of all levels, age, and gender commensurate with their individual potential, interest, and abilities and promote a positive sports culture and lifestyle through NMIFA's core values.

OUR VALUES

Player First - to act in the best interest of players above all else

Fairness - to always strive for impartiality and equal treatment at all times

Respect - to encourage deference across all age groups and genders

Integrity - to inspire honesty, strong moral principles, and unity amongst one another.

Health - to prioritize and encourage a healthy lifestyle through football.

Love of the game - to raise up the spirits of our players and community through the pure pleasure and enjoyment of football

GET INVOLVED

HOW TO HELP

- Join a soccer club or team
- Be a coach
- Be a referee
- Be a goalkeeper
- Watch the games and support our leagues

WAYS TO GIVE

BE A SPONSOR

- Youth Leagues or programs
- Women's Programs
- Men's League
- Referee Program

CONTACT US

Tel. No.: (670) 235-0173
Email: playsoccer@nmifa.com

COACHING PROGRAM
Establish a nationwide coaching licensing system

PLAYER GROWTH
To establish a continuous player-based support

REFEREE PROGRAM
To have stable referee program that produces dedicated, active, and qualified referees.

NATIONAL TEAMS
To have comprehensive national team program for all age groups

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

Jerry Tan
President

Vickie Izuka
Vice President

Wes Bogdan
Executive Committee Member

Norman Del Rosario
Executive Committee Member

Catherine Attao-Toves
Executive Committee Member

Rosauro Zapanta
General Secretary

Merlie Tolentino
Deputy General Secretary

Elna Curate
Treasurer

Ruselle Zapanta
Executive Director

Michiteru Mita
Technical Director

Elsa Zapanta
Accounting Assistant

Jershwin Angeles
Head of Grassroots Football

Mae Ito
Head of Women's Football

Rosemarie Sedillo
Administrative Assistant

Mikky Vargas
Media & Marketing Assistant

Davy Laxa
Assistant Coach

Ronnel Ocanada
Assistant Coach

Nicole Lumbad
Administrative Assistant

NMIFA SOCCER CLUBS

50
One Beat. One Team. One Vision.
Tan Holdings
Anniversary
AB Risk Solutions
In cooperation with AON
ARC
CENTURY HOTEL
CIC
Century Insurance
CENTURY TOURS
Century Travel
AGENCY INC
CROWNE PLAZA
AN IHG HOTEL
RESORT SAIPAN
CTSI
Logistics
D&Q
GEMKELL
CORPORATION
HOTEL VALENTINO
Kanoa Resort
Saipan
SEATOUCH
LET'S GO!
MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES, Ltd.
PACIFIC
QUICK CLEAN
POI
Aviation
SAIPAN
ADVENTURES
SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
TakeCare
Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Salty Skin Pacific keeps true to their mission to help protect the ocean as they cleanup Obyan Beach, as part of the Earth Day Islandwide Cleanup last April 22. Photo courtesy of Salty Skin Pacific

Volunteer sees giving as an 'exchange'

By LINDSEY ADKISON
THE BRUNSWICK NEWS, GA.

LEIGH GASES

Volunteer Girlie Attao is seen writing down voter's information next to the ballot drop box at the Philippine Consulate General Outreach and mobile voting at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

Catina Tindall learned some great life lessons from her family. Among the many her parents taught her to always treat others with respect and kindness.

It's the main reason that, as an adult, Tindall has became a volunteer. Another reason: She enjoys it.

"I don't expect one person will have an impact that will change the entire community, but I know that one person can greatly impact a few," she said.

One way that Tindall thinks she is able to broaden her reach is by working with United Way of Coastal Georgia. The umbrella fundraising organization contributes to 28 community programs. There are 49,000 individuals throughout the region who benefit from work the group does.

Tindall was impressed by the fact that the organization looks at the big picture when it comes to giving back.

"It is not just a fundraising organization, but a vehicle for which true change can be made. The focus of Community Impact is the future of the United Way, and I am so excited to see where the next few years will take us," she said.

"The needs are never ending. However, if we each do something positive we can create change. That is the philosophy of the United Way, and why I am involved with the organization."

Tindall views volunteer efforts as a joint venture among members of the community. She hopes that people working together will help the organization move beyond even her high expectations.

"Volunteering is really an exchange. We all find ourselves in need at some time. It isn't just about giving money or food and shelter, it is about seeing a need and helping someone else," she said.

"We have a caring and giving community. We may not all agree on the issues or the way to go about solving them, but we can all agree it is a luxury that our problem is not whether we have food to feed our family tonight."

Tindall believes in lending a hand to anyone who may need it because that person may return the favor to someone else in the future.

"There will always be someone who needs help and assistance, but there will also always be someone who is fulfilled by giving and helping," she said. "The joy of volunteering is the act of giving, but the end result is a great deal of personal gratification. Giving, with the right spirit, actually gives us back more."

In addition to her work with the United Way, Tindall is also an active member of the Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce. She serves as vice-chair of the chamber's education committee.

She is also the owner of First Coast Benefits Solutions, an insurance agency specializing in employee benefits. As with her parents' advice on giving back, her grandfather also gave her guidance for her insurance career.

"I remember the best advice I was given, by my grandfather. He said, 'Everyone's there for you when you're buying, but no one's there when the claims come in. I never forgot that, and it has been our philosophy that we would be there," she said.

But the people supporting this business woman today are found in her own household. They include her husband of 14 years, Wayne, her daughter, Natalie and son, Ben. The family also has a dog, Toby.

"Toby was given to us by our friends Mason and Jodi Waters, who could not have a dog. Then, they got a dog. It's hilarious," she said with a laugh.

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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:30 AM
REVIVAL SERVICE	10:30 AM
SUPERNATURAL SERVICE	6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

HEALING SERVICE	7:30 PM

MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Friday	6:30 AM
	8:00 AM

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BEACH ROAD, CHALAN PIAO ACROSS HOPWOOD JR. HIGH SOCCER FIELD
NEXT TO BLUE SKY SUPERMARKET
CONTACT NO.: (670) 484-2015

Northern Marianas Insurance Association (NMIA)

Welcome to NMIA!

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association is organized exclusively for social and education with the purpose of associating insurance companies transacting business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, obtaining and collating statistical data for establishing rates, rules for the conduct of property and casualty insurance business, upholding all local and Federal laws, promoting ethical standards and participating in activities for the betterment of the insurance industry in the Commonwealth.

Our Involvement

Our association was involved in several community projects which includes trainings, partnership with established organizations in helping typhoon victims by way of monetary donations as well as granting scholarship to qualified students at Northern Marianas College (NMC) to stay and work in CNMI.

Community Relation

NMIA has partnered with Public School System (PSS) in launching the "Adopt-A-Bus Stop" project on March 17, 2022. The bus stop is located in San Vicente. NMIA permitted Marianas High School to temporarily use the said bus stop for the Marianas Village Pride beautification contest in which the top prize was won by MHS.

The association will fully adopt the bus stop comes April 1, 2023.

Information & Education
The association in partnership with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in CNMI hosted a training at Saipan World Resort last March 4, 2022. NMIA President Gol Corpuz and OSHA Project Manager Tim Asaivao conducted the training on (1) General Insurance Practices on Safety and (2) OSHA General Industry Safety Standards and Guidelines.

The event was attended by over 30 professionals in insurance, construction and other industrial fields.

Legislation & Programs
Member companies of the organization are constantly in communications with CNMI Legislature in cases where the insurance industry and insuring public are affected.

Ratings & Forms
The rating and forms of all the members of the association are all submitted to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner-Department of Commerce.

Ethics & Membership
Please send us a message using the box below if your company is interested to join our association or attend one of our future meetings.
Log-in to www.nmisaipan.com or mail to P.O. Box 501598 Saipan

Charter & By Laws
Filed to the Office of the Attorney General on July 12, 1996

Century Insurance

BUSINESS &
COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

Property Insurance
Insures commercial properties such as office buildings, hotels, apartments, shopping centers, stores and warehouses.

Worker's Compensation Insurance
Insures businesses to cover their employees for occupational injuries.

Commercial Vehicle Insurance
Insures autos and trucks that are used for business purposes.

Public Liability Insurance
Insures your business for injuries to others caused by the negligence of employees.

PERSONAL INSURANCE

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Home Owners Insurance
Insures against loss or damage from fire, smoke, explosion, and other causes of loss. Optional insurance against loss by typhoon or earthquake is available.

Auto Insurance
Insures autos that you own for personal use. This insurance protects you for injuries to others caused by you or authorized drivers.
- Coverage for damage
- Auto medical payments
- Uninsured motorists' coverage

Personal Accident
This insurance provides coverage to individuals in the events of accidental death or dismemberment, temporary loss of income after a disabling injury and limited medical expense insurance.

Travel Accident Insurance
Provides coverage for you when traveling abroad and protects you against accidental death or dismemberment, temporary loss of income after a disabling injury, and limited medical expense insurance.

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Stirring the volunteer spirit

Volunteers for the 2022 Earth Day Cleanup at Marine Beach have their picture taken. The cleanup was organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth, in partnership with the CNMI Youth Affairs, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the CNMI Women's Affairs Office. Photo courtesy of Miss Northern Marianas Earth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

able moments" for children, says Maggie Jones Patton, executive director of Youth HandsOn Network, one of the nation's largest volunteer networks. "As critical to their development as learning math and reading is learning that they can make a difference in the world."

Start by asking your children what issues they have noticed lately — whether it's an international crisis like the Haiti earthquake, a news story about rising demand at food pantries or, closer to home, a sick pet, Patton suggests. Then brainstorm how you can help.

"You want to prepare your kids for what to expect and get their buy-in from the beginning," Patton says. "When you find out what they're interested in and make them part of the decision, you give them a voice."

Once you've decided where to direct your time, find a specific need near you by typing your ZIP code into the "search volunteer opportunities" field at HandsOnNetwork.org. You can also find ideas for family volunteer projects at www.familycares.org. Ideas include adopting a grandparent at a senior center, collecting board games and donating them to children's hospitals, and making bibs out of hand towels for impoverished babies in Ecuador.

You may also want to consider gathering a group of families to tackle a project.

"When I was 4 or 5, my parents organized regular Saturday outings for kids from the foster care center," Patton recalls. "Our families would get together and take these teens out, and as kids, we were just playing with other kids and bonding with them and enjoying whatever the outing was. But it was also a great experience for all the kids involved, from our different backgrounds."

After you complete the volunteer activity, be sure to take time to reflect.

"It's such a great opportunity to have a conversation with your kids," Patton says. "You want to talk about what you just did and why it mattered."

And don't be afraid to pat yourselves on the back. HandsOn Network recently partnered with Disney for the "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" program, which offers families a free one-day admission ticket to a Disney park in exchange for a day of volunteer service (more information at disneyparks.com/celebrate).

"For kids, being recognized for what they do and celebrating their accomplishments is very important," Patton says.

Which doesn't have to mean a trip to Disney World, of course. Ice cream and a good heart-to-heart can work just as well.

"The joy of volunteering and service is so real," Patton says. "Kids really recognize that they're growing as responsible individuals and putting a smile on another person's face." ***(Heidi Stevens)***

You want to get your kids excited about giving their time, but where do you start?

Parent advice

The best way for a child to learn is by example. Volunteer at your child's school by reading stories at library time, helping out with field trips, etc. When your child is older, have him/her assist you in your volunteer activities. Help out as a family at church events, volunteer to play games with the elderly at an assisted-living facility or help sort clothes at a resale shop.

—Deb Murray

My girls set up a hot chocolate stand and raised money for a local animal shelter.

—Janet Oak

I like Special Olympics because the whole family can help. As the parent of a child with autism, I have seen the good that is done by the volunteers and the growth of the volunteers, as well as our kids, on a yearly basis. Your park district can steer you to your local program.

—Marie Grass Amenta

Expert advice

"Family volunteering is one of life's great teach-

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. (CCA), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for a cancer-free CNMI through early detection, public education and awareness about cancer prevention and screening, and to provide hope and support for cancer patients, survivors, and their families through community partnerships and programs.

The CCA Board of Directors has put the administrative staff together with our goal of advocating for cancer survivors and raising public awareness in mind. Our Patient Navigator and Outreach Coordinator, Ann C. Tagabuel, focuses on communicating with survivors and serving as both counsel and advocate to those who are experiencing the turbulence of life with cancer. Taking care of our daily operations and communicating with vendors to ensure the CCA doors remain open to the public is our Administrative Assistant, Michelle S. Camacho. Recently, Viveka P. Castro was hired as our Social Media and Marketing Coordinator, to engage with the community in the online and in-person world of 2022 and to tell the stories of our island's survivors. All of this is under the supervision of our Interim Director, Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, who guides the day to day operations.

Serving our cancer-stricken community has always been the CCA's goal. For cancer patients receiving ongoing treatment, we provide each registered client with a yearly threshold of $750 dollars which can be used for equipment rentals or to buy foods with the nutrients necessary to survive cancer treatments. While most of our events have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic (including our signature fundraiser, Marianas March Against Cancer), we are working to bring back support groups for our clients, their caregivers, and their families.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our partners, donors, and the individuals who continue to support our programs in 2022. The public is encouraged to learn about our programs and contribute to the critical and worthwhile work we do. The CCA is currently working to relaunch its volunteer program. If you would like to get involved, you can reach us at +1 (670) 682-0050, send us an email at ccamarianas@gmail.com, or stop by our office at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building, located along Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

NMCADSV
NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
BECOME A MEMBER.
BE PART OF A MOVEMENT.
We are looking for individuals and organizations who are interested in being part of NMCADSV and ending violence in the CNMI. Over the last 15 years, we have been dedicated to making our islands safer and healthier for everyone including survivors, as well as building up systems in our community that support this. Reach out to us to become a member TODAY!
@EndViolenceNMI
info@EndViolenceNMI.org

MISSION

The PRIDE Marianas Youth Alliance is a grassroots organization that began on June 2019 by members in the community with the mission "to raise awareness, link resources, and empower our LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI." Our mission is to strengthen a more compassionate and supportive community that aims at improving the quality of life for LGBTQ+ persons, their families and friends through support, education, advocacy, unify efforts, and facilitate LGBTQ organizations and individuals in the CNMI.

VISION

We strive to repaint the skies a more compassionate and empowering community that embraces social diversity though love and respect for all.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE ORGANIZATION:

Family and Friends of our LGBTQIA+ youth

WHO DO YOU SERVE?

CNMI Youth and Community

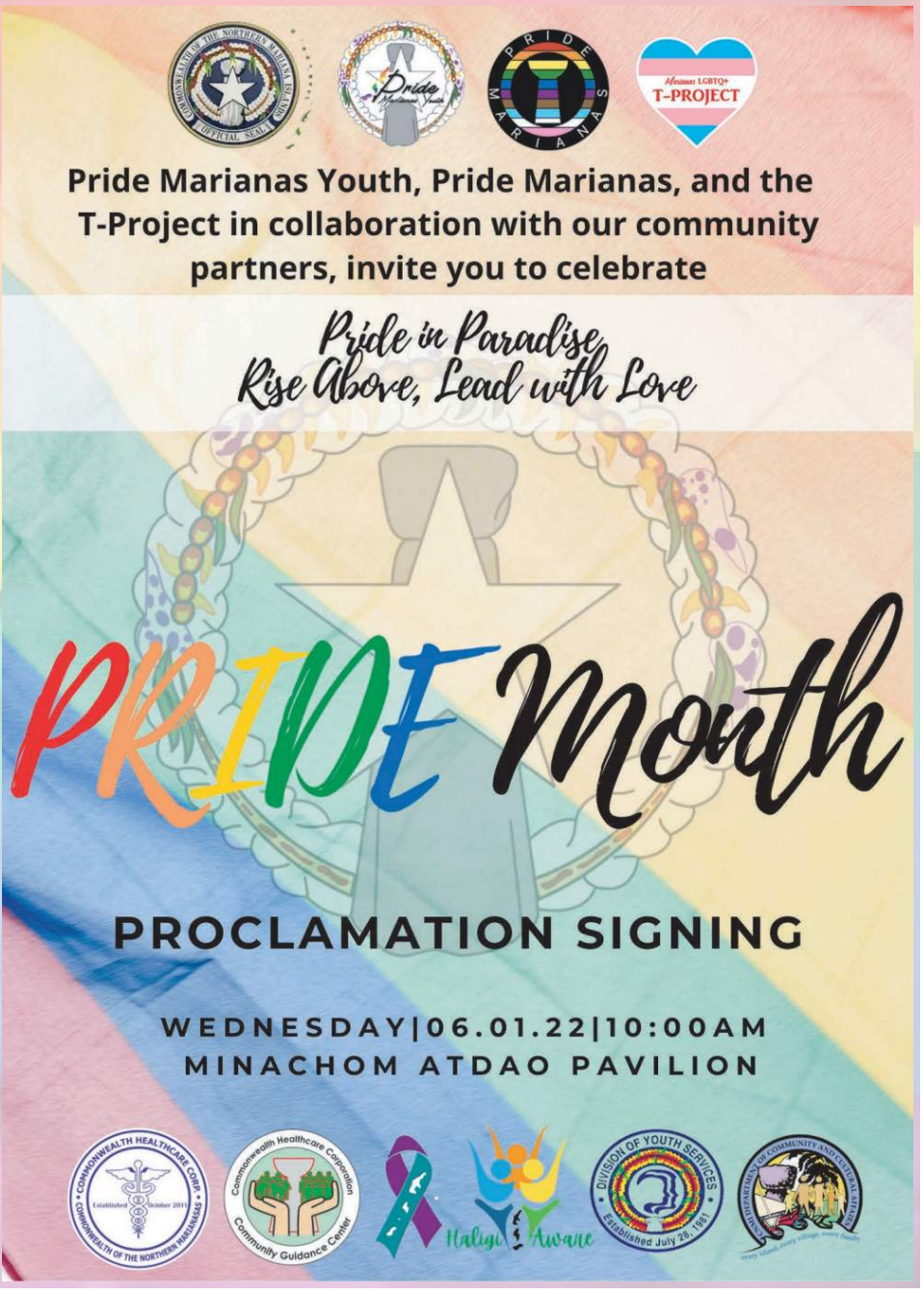
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

All of the events and activities were made possible by the collaborative efforts of our government, non-profit, community organizations, local businesses, and volunteers of family and friends. Other Pride organizations including Pride Marianas, T-Project, and Guam Pride have helped us celebrate PRIDE month over the years, notably the 2019 Youth Pride Walk, 2020 Ride4Pride, 2021 Pride at the Park, Pride Talks, and Strides for Pride. We look forward to 2022 Pride month and we are truly grateful for the community's support and love. Biba Pride Month!.

GET INVOLVED/HOW TO HELP:

Our 2022 theme is Pride in Paradise - Rise Above, Lead with Love". Please join our 2022 proclamation on June 1st at 10am at Minachom Atdao. Contact us at PMY670@gmail.com or check out our social media for more events

WAYS TO GIVE: We have a sister organization that is a 501(c)(3) non profit in the CNMI, the Marianas T Project. Email pmy670@gmail.com or t.project.cnmi @gmail.com


Pride Marianas Youth, Pride Marianas, and the T-Project in collaboration with our community partners, invite you to celebrate
Pride in Paradise
Rise Above, Lead with Love
PRIDE Month
PROCLAMATION SIGNING
WEDNESDAY|06.01.22|10:00AM
MINACHOM ATDAO PAVILION

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

Promotes physical growth, health and wellness, and recreation, as well as socio-emotional development through sports

GET INVOLVED!

Volunteer on events organized by Saipan Soccer School such as Summer Camps and President's Cup.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS:

SUMMER CAMP

A yearly event promoting group dynamics, camaraderie and sportsmanship.
Open to children age:
6-12 yrs. Old (Soccer);
8-12 yrs. Old (Basketball, Badminton and Volleyball)

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Competitive soccer tournament for kids in different age levels.

CONTACT US

CALL (670) 235-0561

christy_villaflor@saipansoccerschool.org

TSL Sports Complex, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands,

Nation

Families mourn, worry in wake of elementary school's shooting

AP

Kladys Castellón prays during a vigil for the victims of a mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—Distraught families gathered at a local civic center and turned to social media to mourn and to make desperate pleas for help finding missing children as the death toll in a gruesome school shooting at a Texas elementary school rose to at least 19 students. Authorities said the gunman also killed two adults.

By nightfall, names of those killed during Tuesday's attack at Robb Elementary School in the town of Uvalde began to emerge. One man at the civic center walked away sobbing into his phone "she is gone." On the backside of the building, a woman stood by herself, alternately crying and yelling into her phone, shaking her fist and stamping her feet.

Manny Renfro said he got word Tuesday that his grandson, 8-year-old Uziyah Garcia, was among those killed.

"The sweetest little boy that I've ever known," Renfro said. "I'm not just saying that because he was my grandkid."

Renfro said Uziyah last visited him in San Angelo during spring break.

"We started throwing the football together and I was teaching him pass patterns. Such a fast little boy and he could catch a ball so good," Renfro said. "There were certain plays that I would call that he would remember and he would do it exactly like we practiced."

Fourth-grade teacher Eva Mireles, 44, was remembered as a loving mother and wife.

"She was adventurous. I would definitely say those wonderful things about her. She is definitely going to be very missed," said 34-year-old relative Amber Ybarra, of San Antonio.

Ybarra prepared to give blood for the wounded and pondered how no one noticed trouble with the shooter in time to stop him.

"To me, it's more about raising mental health awareness," said Ybarra, a wellness coach who attended the elementary school where the shooting happened. "Someone could possibly have seen a dramatic change before something like this happened."

Lisa Garza, 54, of Arlington, Texas, mourned the death of her cousin, Xavier Javier Lopez, who had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming.

"He was just a loving 10-year-old little boy, just enjoying life, not knowing that this tragedy was going to happen today," she said. "He was very bubbly, loved to dance with his brothers, his mom. This has just taken a toll on all of us."

She also lamented what she described as lax gun laws.

"We should have more restrictions, especially if these kids are not in their right state of mind and all they want to do is just hurt people, especially innocent children going to the schools," Garza said.

On social media, pictures of smiling children were posted, their families begging for information. Classes had been winding down for the year and each school day had a theme. Tuesday's was Footloose and Fancy. Students were supposed to wear a nice outfit with fun or fancy shoes.

Adolfo Cruz, a 69-year-old air conditioning repairman, remained outside the school Tuesday night, waiting for word about his 10-year-old great-granddaughter, Eliajha Cruz Torres, whose whereabouts remained unknown to family.

Cruz drove to the scene after receiving a tearful and terrifying call from his daughter shortly after the first reports that an 18-year-old gunman had opened fire at the school. While he waited outside the school Tuesday night, his family was at the hospital and civic center waiting for any potential word on her condition.

Çruz called the waiting the heaviest moment of his life.

"I hope she is alive," Cruz said. "They are waiting for an update."

Federico Torres waited for news about his 10-year-old son Rogelio. He told KHOU-TV that he was at work when he learned about the shooting and rushed to the school.

"They sent us to the hospital, to the civic center, to the hospital and here again, nothing, not even in San Antonio," Torres said. "They don't tell us anything, only a photo, wait, hope that everything is well."

Torres said he was praying that "my son is found safe ... Please if you know anything, let us know."

Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home, which is located across the street from Robb Elementary School, said in a Facebook post on Tuesday evening that it would be assisting families of the shooting victims with no cost for funerals.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Accountant, Bach. deg. in Accting. (may be foreign equiv); 5 yrs. exp. Responsible for assisting finance dept. in creating accurate & timely financial records for co. engaged in dealership, distributorships, retail & wholesale located in Saipan, CNMI. Preps various reports for mgmt. Compute taxes owed & prep tax returns, reporting or other tax req. Calculate & prep payroll. Utilize integrated financial accting, & procurement control sys. Send resume to Triple J Saipan Inc. Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 500487, Saipan, MP 96950

Wanted: CORRESPONDENTS

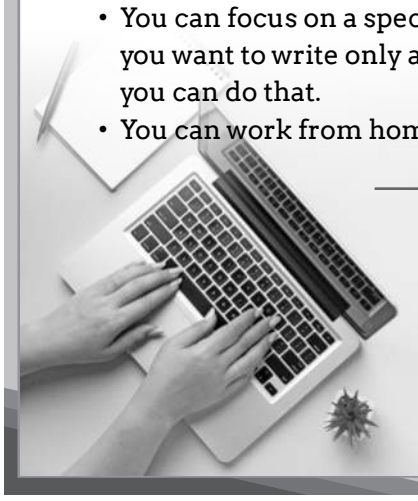
Saipan Tribune is looking for correspondents who will be assisting the newspaper with its news or sports coverages, or will assist the Advertising Section with advertorial write-ups.

Correspondents are paid per word and photo, so you essentially control your own time and the subject of your coverage.

The only requirements are good writing skills and flexibility in work hours. Knowledge in creative writing, newswriting, or sports writing is a plus.

Advantages:

- This can be a side gig. You can continue working at your main job and be a correspondent on the side. Additional income! Yay!
- You control your work hours.
- You choose which story to write about.
- You can focus on a specific subject if you wish. For example, if you want to write only about baseball or the environment, you can do that.
- You can work from home. No need to time-in or out at the office.



For those who would like to apply, you may email your application letter and résumé to editor@saipantribune.com or give them to Mia Carreon at HR on the second floor of the JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan. A sample of your previous written work will be helpful.

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Richard V.Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 10:30AM*** at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

To minimize the threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of April 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
   1) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2022-029
      Project: GARAPAN FISHING BASE REVETMENT & SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT
      Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DLNR) *DLNR is proposing to construct the revetment along the land-lagoon interface by stabilizing 380 feet of shoreline along the Garapan Fishing Base. The project will be completed in two phases – Phase I begins south of the storm drain which is adjacent to the boat ramp and would extend south at approximately 100 feet. Phase II is the next 100 feet consisting of flanking rocks.*
      a. Agencies' Discussion
      b. Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
   1) Final adoption of proposed revisions to NMIAC Chapter 15-10 affecting permit application and amendment procedures
   2) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate final regulation
   3) Proposed revisions to NMIAC Chapter 15-20 regarding coordinates for towed floatation corridor
   4) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulation

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

Environment

Europe and US set for scorching, dry summer, scientists say

By Jonathan Tirone
BLOOMBERG NEWS

VIENNA—Europe and parts of the U.S. are set for a sweltering and dry summer this year, posing risks for crops and boosting demand for energy for cooling at a time when prices of commodities are already running high.

Scientists at the Copernicus Climate Change Service, who published their seasonal outlook on Friday, said hotter and drier weather is highly likely across key agricultural regions in the European Union. It could bring drought conditions for farmers who are already battling the impacts of climate change.

Abnormally high temperatures could also fuel natural gas demand for air conditioning. Russia's war on Ukraine has already driven gas prices in Europe higher, contributing to a cost of living crisis across the region.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

A family walks across dry cracked earth that used to be the bottom of Lake Mendocino on April 22, 2021, in Ukiah, California.

The scientists said there's a 70% to 100% probability that temperatures across the northeastern U.S., Spain, France and Italy will be well above average from June to August. At the same time, the chance of below-normal rainfall across swathes of central Europe, France, Spain and the U.S. Northwest was more than 50%, the Copernicus team said.

Their model brings together data from scientists in the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and the U.S. The EU program uses billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world for its monthly and seasonal forecasts.

Persistent drought has threatened to stress production of crops like wheat and corn, just as Russia's war in Ukraine threatens to curtail shipments.. The models developed by Copernicus are intended to help businesses and governments plan for and potentially mitigate weather-related damages.

Monarch butterfly numbers in Mexico rise by 35%

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican experts said Monday that 35% more monarch butterflies arrived this year to spend the winter in mountaintop forests, compared to the previous season.

Experts say the rise may reflect the butterflies' ability to adapt to more extreme bouts of heat or drought by varying the date when they leave Mexico.

The government commission for natural protected areas said the butterflies' population covered 2.84 hectares (7 acres) this year, compared to 2.1 hectares (5.2 acres) last year.

The annual butterfly count doesn't calculate the individual number of butterflies, but rather the number of acres they cover when they clump together on tree boughs.

Each year the monarchs return to the United States and Canada on an annual migration that is threatened by loss of the milkweed they feed on north of the border, and deforestation in the butterfly reserves in Mexico.

Gloria Tavera, the regional director of Mexico's Commission for National Protected Areas, said logging in the butterflies' wintering ground rose by about 4.5% this year, to 13.9 hectares (34 acres).

However, fewer trees were lost to fire, drought or plant diseases and pests. So overall tree loss in the 2021-22 season was about 18.8 hectares (46 acres), down from 20.6 hectares (51 acres) in the 2020-21 season.

But environmentalist and writer Homero Aridjis, who grew up around the reserve, said "there is no reliable data for the full extent of wood extraction from the reserve," noting that loggers often take undamaged trees, claiming they were diseased or were affected by storms.

The butterflies traditionally arrive in the mountaintop pine and fir forests west of Mexico City around the beginning of November. They normally leave for the U.S. and Canada in March.

But Tavera said that last year was unusual, because the monarchs began leaving in February; that allowed them to get out before drought and heat hit just north of border in April and May.

"They are beginning to adapt to extreme climate conditions," Tavera said.

Strangely, this year, the butterflies stuck around in Mexico longer than usual. "They left very late. We still had butterflies in April," Tavera said. It remains to be seen in next year's figures whether that strategy worked for them.

While activists and students in the United States and Canada have been urged to plant milkweed, to make up for the losses of the plant due to the clearance of farm and pasture land and the use of herbicides, that strategy has backfired in Mexico.

Tavera urged Mexicans not to plant milkweed in Mexico, saying it might disrupt the migration by encouraging monarchs to stick around, rather than leave for the north. She also urged people not to breed monarchs in captivity—they are sometimes released at weddings or other celebrations—saying that could spread diseases among the insects.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2022

Opening date: May 16, 2022 **Closing date: June 03, 2022**

Positions: SAIPAN:
(1) Custodial-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00P.M. on Friday, June 03, 2022.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 | www.marianas.edu

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
NMCRQS 22-002

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the "Workforce Development and Training Center.

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, April 29, 2022 for Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, May 11, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions
Due date and time: 10:00am, May 31, 2022 (CNMI)
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Investment Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC-015

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER-THC, ROTA HEALTH CENTER-RHC, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISEASE PROGRAM-EHDP AND MATERNAL & SUPPLY OFFICE-MSO"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC/THC/RHC-016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF PROVIDER'S HOUSING FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER AND ROTA HEALTH CENTER"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Stephen C. Woodruff (F0190)
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Tel.: (670) 989-2797
Email: scwlaw.spn@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO ACOSTA DELO SANTOS, Deceased. : Civil Action No. 22-0104-CV : **NOTICE OF HEARING NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Letters of Administration was filed in the above-entitled action for probate of the Estate of Antonio Acosta Delo Santos, by Petitioner, Antonio Celis Santos, and it has been set for a hearing on the 16th day of June, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Any person who has any objections to this petition or interest in said estate may file such objections or declare such interest with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objections or interest in this matter.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING TO BE A CREDITOR of the Decedent or the Estate must file their claim with the Clerk of Court not later than 60 days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2022,

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

Life & Style

Witness for Depp cryptically contradicts key Heard witness

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—Jurors in Johnny Depp's libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard heard a snippet of testimony Tuesday contradicting one of Heard's key witnesses, but much of the context was stripped away.

Jennifer Howell—who once employed Heard's sister, Whitney Henriquez—testified briefly Tuesday in the six-week civil trial through a recorded deposition.

Depp is suing Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers say he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

Depp has denied he ever struck Heard, and says she was the abuser in the relationship. Heard has testified about more than a dozen separate instances of physical abuse she says she suffered at Depp's hands.

AP

Actor Amber Heard speaks with a legal team member at the Fairfax County Circuit Courthouse in Fairfax, Va., Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Howell testified that she sent an email in 2020 to Henriquez begging her to tell the truth.

Jurors, though, did not see the letter, nor did Howell explain in what way she thought Henriquez was being untruthful. The edited deposition played in court for less than 15 minutes—Howell appeared to walk out of the deposition before lawyers had completed their questioning.

In a court document, though, Howell goes into much greater detail. She gives a four-page declaration in which she says Henriquez confided in her that Heard was the aggressor in the fight and Henriquez allegedly said she thought Heard "was going to kill Johnny."

Howell also says in the declaration that Henriquez told her and others in their workplace that Heard cut off Depp's finger in a fight the couple had in Australia. The severed finger has been a point of dispute throughout the trial. Depp says the finger was severed when Heard lobbed a vodka bottle at him. Heard says Depp did it to himself on a night when he was in a drunken rage and sexually assaulted her with a bourbon bottle.

Henriquez is the only one of Heard's witnesses who testified in the six-week trial that she personally witnessed Depp physically assault Heard, in a fight where she said each landed blows on the other while she was caught between the two.

It's not entirely clear why Howell's testimony was so limited. Throughout the trial, though, Judge Penney Azcarate has strictly enforced rules limiting hearsay evidence, and Howell's description of what Henriquez told her would likely be a classic example of hearsay unless Depp's lawyers could claim some sort of exception to the hearsay rule.

In Howell's declaration, she acknowledged that she was upset when she learned that Heard had pledged millions of dollars to the American Civil Liberties Union and a children's hospital, when Howell thought the money could do more good at The Art of Elysium, the nonprofit she ran and that had employed Henriquez.

The limited nature of Howell's testimony makes it unclear if jurors will draw the connections that Depp's team hopes to make.

Howell testified as a rebuttal witness for Depp after Heard rested her case Tuesday morning without calling Depp to the stand—Heard's lawyers had initially suggested they would call Depp as a witness.

Jurors may still hear more from Depp. His team has indicated they may call him to the stand Wednesday.

Both Depp and Heard have each testified extensively already about details of their toxic relationship.

Also Tuesday, the celebrity news site TMZ filed an emergency motion seeking to block the testimony of a former employee, Morgan Tremaine.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ex-White House press secretary Jen Psaki hired by MSNBC

NEW YORK (AP)—Former White House press secretary Jen Psaki has officially landed at MSNBC, where she is expected to make appearances on the network's cable and streaming programs as well as host a new original show. The program, set to debut in the first quarter of 2023, will "bring together her unique perspective from behind the podium and her deep experience in the highest levels of government and presidential politics," the network said in a statement Tuesday. Psaki will also appear on NBC and during MSNBC's primetime special election programming throughout the midterms and 2024 presidential election. In a tweet, Psaki write that she was thrilled to join the network this fall. "Breaking down the facts and getting to the bottom of what's driving the issues that matter most to people in this country has never been more important," she wrote.

Ex-reality star Josh Duggar to be sentenced for child porn

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Former reality TV star Josh Duggar will return to federal court on Wednesday, where a judge could sentence him to up to 20 years in prison for receiving and possessing child pornography. Prosecutors are seeking a maximum sentence for Duggar, whose large family was the focus of TLC's "19 Kids and Counting" reality show. His lawyers have asked the court in Fayetteville, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock, to send him to prison for five years. Duggar was arrested in April 2021 after a Little Rock police detective found child porn files were being shared by a computer traced to Duggar. Investigators testified that images depicting the sexual abuse of children, including toddlers, were downloaded in 2019 onto a computer at a car dealership Duggar owned. TLC canceled "19 Kids and Counting" in 2015 following allegations that Duggar had molested four of his sisters and a babysitter years earlier. Authorities began investigating the abuse in 2006 after receiving a tip from a family friend but concluded that the statute of limitations on any possible charges had expired.

'FBI' season finale pulled after Texas deadly shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS pulled the season finale of "FBI" after a deadly elementary school shooting in Texas. The network said Tuesday that it will not air the show's season four finale titled "Prodigal Son." The decision was made by CBS after a gunman killed at least 19 students at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Authorities said the gunman also killed two adults. The finale's storyline involved a suspected student's participation in a deadly robbery. It's unclear whether the episode will air in the future. The synopsis reads: "As the team investigates a deadly robbery that garnered a cache of automatic weapons for the killers, they discover one of the perps is a classmate of Jubal's son, who is reluctant to cooperate." The network re-aired the show's 12th episode "Under Pressure" in place of the season finale.

Apple TV+ also canceled a red carpet event for its season two of its show "Physical," which stars Rose Byrne, because of the shooting.

Abuse victim can't get mother to see truth

DEAR ABBY: One of my siblings was abused as a child. In turn, he abused me when he was a pre-teen and into his teens. It stopped when he got a girlfriend at the age of 14. This was news to my parents.

Now that the cat is out of the bag, I have tried to explain to my mom that I don't like being around him. She has heard me, but she pretends like it didn't happen and still tries to get everyone together for holidays, etc. The idea of seeing him makes me sick, and I'm terrified for his children.

I went to therapy as a young adult to work out my issues with him and what happened. The abuse has affected my ability to hold onto relationships, and I fight depression often, which I am good at hiding. She keeps saying, "but you were so close as kids." I don't think she understands what "grooming" is. Can you PLEASE explain it in a manner that doesn't make me feel like it was all my fault?

GETTING BEYOND IT

DEAR GETTING: Your fault? NONE of what happened was your fault! Predators groom victims by first establishing a close relationship with them, telling them they are "special," that their bond is special, that the usual rules of behavior do not apply to them, bestowing time, attention and gifts, and pledging them to secrecy. Please show this to your mother. I hope it will help her understand that getting the family together is not in the cards now or ever.

I am concerned by your statement that the abuse has caused you to be depressed, which you are "good at hiding," and which prevents you from forming relationships. Those issues might be resolved if, as an adult, you consult another licensed psychotherapist. While it may not be something you wish to revisit, I hope you will consider it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who is engaged to a wonderful woman who has a busy life. We met online 18 months ago and felt an instant connection. She has two grown children, a 16-year-old son, two grandchildren and one on the way. We live five hours apart and see each other every three weeks.

My concern is that we talk only once or twice during the week and maybe text once a day. It is not enough for me. I have expressed how I feel, but I think she's just too busy. She plans on moving in with me once we are married. I recently purchased a brand-new home. Because she is so involved in her family's lives, I can't see her leaving them to live with me. What should I do?

NERVOUS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NERVOUS: You and your fiancee need to have a serious, in-depth conversation about how this will work. It is important you two clarify how she plans to divide her time between you and her family because, right now, you are getting the short end of the stick. Will the 16-year-old live with you? Because you aren't getting what you need from this relationship despite the fact that you have explained what your needs are, it may be time to rethink this romance.

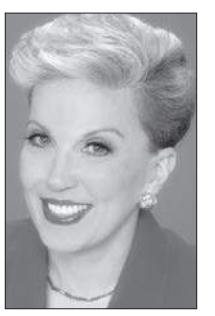
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

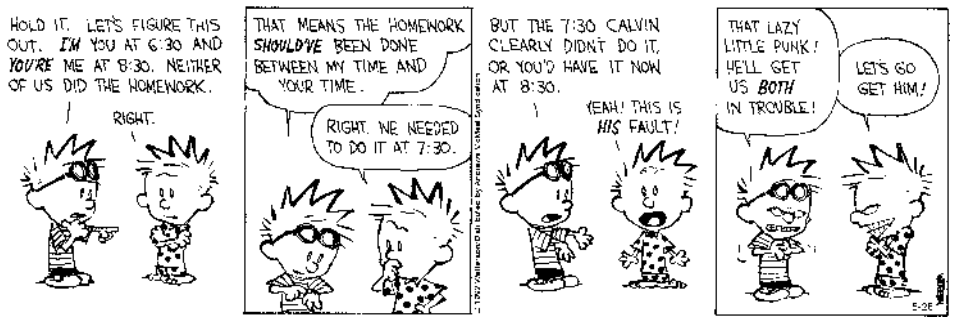


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

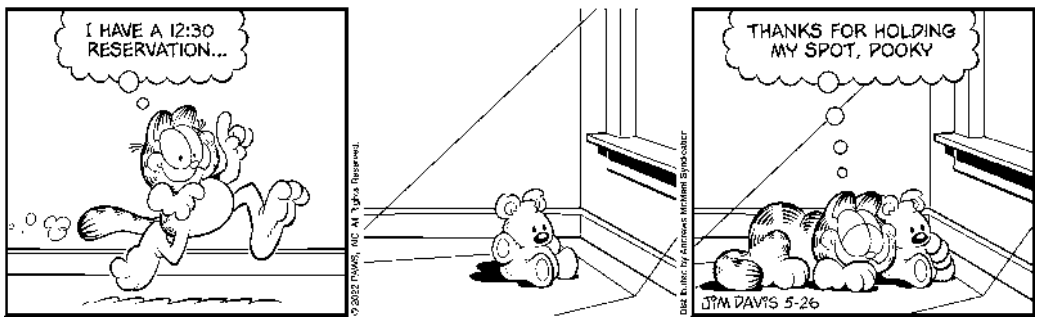
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOLD IT. LET'S FIGURE THIS OUT. I'M YOU AT 6:30 AND YOU'RE ME AT 8:30. NEITHER OF US DID THE HOMEWORK.
RIGHT.
THAT MEANS THE HOMEWORK SHOULD'VE BEEN DONE BETWEEN MY TIME AND YOUR TIME.
RIGHT. WE NEEDED TO DO IT AT 7:30.
BUT THE 7:30 CALVIN CLEARLY DIDN'T DO IT, OR YOU'D HAVE IT NOW AT 8:30.
YEAH! THIS IS HIS FAULT!
THAT LAZY LITTLE PUNK! HE'LL GET US BOTH IN TROUBLE!
LET'S GO GET HIM!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



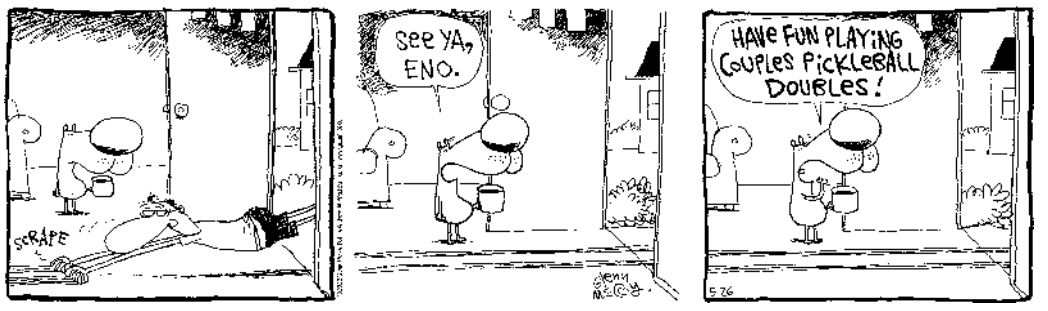
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MOM'S BOOK GOT MENTIONED ON "THE TODAY SHOW"!
I KNOW! CRAZY!
I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS WE'LL BE RICH.
WHICH DOES RAISE SOME QUESTIONS.
SUCH AS?
DO I WANT MY PRIVATE JET IN COTTON CANDY PINK OR MORE OF A CARNATION?
5-26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

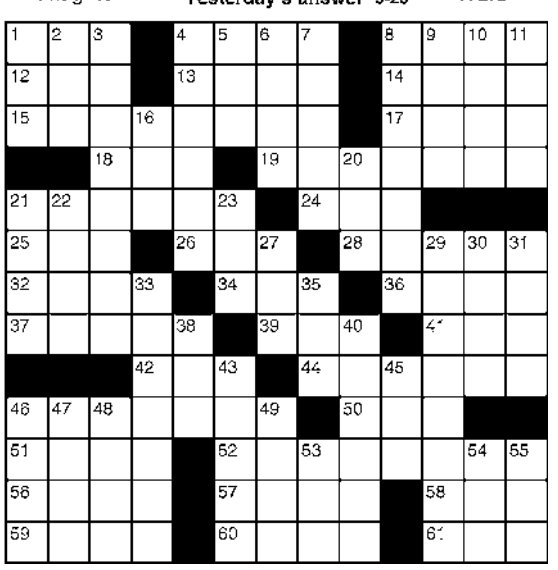
ACROSS
1 Insult, slangily
4 Weeps
8 Tiny bit
12 Genetic letters
13 Head light?
14 Over-confident
15 PBS drama based on a Jane Austen manu-script
17 Bowling spot
18 — Lancelot
19 Crazy
21 Bread seller
24 Crater part
25 Mess up
26 U-boat, for one
28 Plains grazers
32 Maui souvenirs
34 Cattle call
36 Nicolas of "Moon-struck"
37 Ryan's daughter
39 Twitch
41 New Deal agcy.
42 Diner dessert
44 Surgeon's cutter
46 Sunshine State
50 Permit
51 Queue
52 Picnic snack
56 "E Pluribus —"
57 Sea flier
58 Earl Grey, e.g.
59 Lighten
60 Ogler's look
61 Thither

DOWN
1 ER workers
2 — tizzy
3 Classical language of India
4 Bakes eggs
5 Granola grain
6 Shape-less mass
7 Ping producer
8 Of the Muslim faith
9 Yemen neighbor
10 Casse-role base
11 Mellows
16 Conk out
20 Pen tip
21 Karate level
22 Baili-wick
23 "Deli-cious!"
27 Droid
29 Holiness
30 Monster
31 Spruced up
33 Para-mount
35 Peanut product
38 Roman 1002
40 Mobile-creating artist Alex-ander
43 Bygone Ford
45 Up-to-date
46 Chim-ney part
47 Director Wert-muller
48 Burden
49 Swiss river
53 Away from SSW
54 Corp. boss
55 Solo of "Star Wars"

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	A	Y		N	A	S	H		B	R	I	T
O	X	O		U	P	T	O		R	E	F	I
S	O	Y		T	R	U	F	F	A	I	S	F
T	N	O	T	E			D	O	H			
			A	L	L	A		E	M	C	E	E
T	R	U	E	L	I	F	E		S	O	R	E
F	O	S		A	I	I	M	B		S	N	I
A	L	E	C		T	R	U	E	L	I	E	S
R	E	S	E	W		E	S	A	I			
			-	E	A			R	U	S	B	Y
T	R	U	E	B	L	O	O	D		U	R	I
B	U	R	N		E	R	L	E		T	A	P
D	E	N	Y		S	E	E	D		S	T	S

Yesterday's answer 5-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Helena Bonham Carter, 56; Lenny Kravitz, 58; Pam Grier, 73; Stevie Nicks, 74.

Happy Birthday: Forward motion, a positive attitude, and trusting and believing in yourself will lead to a brighter future. Your insight, experience and knowledge will set you apart and help you find your way into the hearts of those who can help make your dreams come true. Stand tall and be proud of what you have to offer, and reward those who join forces with you. Your numbers are 9, 15, 17, 28, 31, 37, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll need a pick-me-up to continue a steady pace forward. Don't let changes disrupt your plans or keep you from making pressing decisions. Trust in your judgment, and take bold action to maintain your reputation, position or status. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a stance, speak up and follow your plans. Don't fold under pressure or give in to someone trying to discredit you. Keep your passwords and personal matters secret to avoid loss. Stick to what you do best. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You're on a roll, so don't look back or stop midstream. Build momentum and move quickly. Strive to finish what you start, and win over people who have something to contribute to your long-term plans. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let emotions get you in trouble. Check your ego at the door, and be a good listener. Sparring with someone looking for a fight will end in disaster. Focus on what's important to you, and implement changes that make you proud. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on self-improvement. Increasing your chance to advance by enhancing your skills, knowledge or connections will pay off. Criticizing others will backfire, making you look bad. Take care of responsibilities, and don't let what others do bother you. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take an active role in whatever excites you or promises positive changes. How you live, learn and deal with what's going on around you will determine how others perceive you. Be brave, and you will make your mark and encourage new opportunities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay closer attention to meaningful relationships. Don't take anyone or anything for granted. Be willing to offer as much in return as someone provides to you to maintain balance and equality. Handle shared expenses, endeavors or investments with care. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and about. Experience is the spice of life. Participate in activities or events that will spark your imagination and encourage you to make the changes you've only dreamed about. Take responsibility for what's to come. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Initiate changes at home that will help you enjoy your life, relationships and hobbies. Make a point to get your responsibilities out of the way quickly, and move on to more pleasurable activities. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A problem with a friend, relative or peer will set you back if you aren't prepared to follow through with your plans, regardless of what others think. Don't get involved in other people's problems. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't limit what you can do because someone opts out or disrupts your plans. Take pride in what you do; carry on until you get your desired results. Focus on personal endeavors, and surround yourself with positive people. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a moment to review and rethink your strategy. It's OK to do things differently. Put your energy into preparation, and find unique ways to market what you have to offer. A change will encourage you to improve your life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, brave and dutiful. You are outgoing and playful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			4	1			
1	5			7	3		2	
				3				
3	4	8						
						6	8	4
		8						
7		2	3			5		9
		1	5			7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	4	1	5	8	7	9	2	3
7	5	9	3	2	6	1	8	4
3	8	2	9	4	1	7	6	5
4	1	7	2	5	9	6	3	8
9	3	8	1	6	4	2	5	7
2	6	5	7	3	8	4	9	1
5	7	3	4	9	2	8	1	6
8	9	4	6	1	3	5	7	2
1	2	6	8	7	5	3	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LOUIE ANDERSON (1953-2022) Solution: 9 letters

S	S	A	H	O	S	T	S	K	I	D	S	A	N	F
E	M	M	U	R	P	H	Y	S	T	E	K	S	A	B
I	O	E	M	N	O	E	E	S	I	C	T	M	I	I
R	C	R	O	W	O	G	R	R	H	A	I	L	D	D
E	T	I	R	J	D	E	O	R	N	L	A	O	E	L
S	I	C	G	I	G	T	I	D	Y	R	M	U	M	E
A	S	A	R	N	S	S	U	F	R	P	C	I	O	I
G	M	B	A	R	T	P	E	Y	O	Ⓢ	L	E	C	F
E	A	R	U	I	E	U	L	K	Ⓝ	T	O	I	I	R
V	T	O	N	R	D	D	E	Ⓐ	R	D	A	D	Y	E
S	T	E	F	A	C	R	Ⓕ	O	S	E	K	D	E	G
A	O	E	G	N	A	S	H	I	B	H	H	E	N	N
L	C	G	O	O	D	B	Y	E	L	M	N	T	D	A
T	E	S	E	I	R	A	T	N	E	M	U	C	O	D
R	E	V	L	I	S	K	C	I	U	Q	S	J	R	M

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America, Baskets, Bridges, Christine, Cloak, Comedian, Dagger, Dangerfield, Dear Dad, Documentaries, Eddie, Family Feud, Fans, Films, Game, Goodbye, Host, Humor, Joey, Jumbo, Kids, Larry, Las Vegas, Louie, Mother, Murphy, Nash, Perfect, Poker, Quicksilver, Rodney, Scrubs, Series, Show, Sitcoms, Splash, Stand-up, Stories, Strangers, Tours

Yesterday's Answer: Designs

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

Doncic, Mavs avoid sweep with 119-109 win over Warriors

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Golden State Warriors 119-109 on Tuesday night to avoid being swept in the Western Conference finals.

It was the 10th double-double in his 14 games this postseason for Doncic, who also had nine assists and got some help from his supporting cast to extend this series. He had 40 points in Game 3, when Reggie Bullock shot 0 for 10 shooting with seven misses from 3-point range.

Dorian Finney-Smith had 23 points and Bullock had 18 on 6-of-10 shooting — all 3-pointers. Jalen Brunson had 15 points. The Mavs were 20 of 43 on 3-pointers.

The loss snapped the Warriors' nine-game winning streak in Western Conference finals games, though they are still firmly in control of this series headed back to California for Game 5 on Thursday night.

Stephen Curry had 20 points and returned to the game with 3:22 left — his first appearance in the fourth quarter — after the Warriors had cut a 29-point deficit to 110-102. But they never got closer even with Curry and other starters returning to the floor. Doncic then drove for a dunk and Bullock made his sixth 3-pointer.

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic shoots a 3-point basket over the stretched arms of Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals, Tuesday, May 24, 2022, in Dallas.

No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series. Only three of the 146 teams to fall in that deep hole have even been able to force a seventh game.

Jonathan Kuminga had 17 points and Andrew Wiggins 13 points for the Warriors, who had seven players score in double figures.

There was even a 16-minute rain delay, when the start of the second half was held up because of rain leaking through the roof at American Airlines Center. There was heavy rain outside, and there were at least two leaks. One was dropping water near the Golden State bench, and at the other end of the court water appeared to be falling in the stands.

A 3-pointer by Doncic put the Mavs up 81-56 with 6:57 left in the third quarter, their largest lead to that point.

Draymond Green was fouled on the ensuing Golden State possession, and his first free throw attempt stopped on the wide back side of the rim. After Doncic and Green stood in the lane together laughing about that, before the ball was eventually knocked down, Green then missed the second attempt as well, though that one just didn't go through the rim and was rebounded by Doncic.

Heat, Celtics now in a best-of-3 to decide the East title

MIAMI (AP)—Back. Forth. Back. Forth.

The Miami Heat want to see that pattern continue. The Boston Celtics hope to break that trend. And the team that prevails Wednesday night will be one game away from the NBA Finals.

The Eastern Conference finals has been nothing more than a series of mood swings, with matters set to resume with Game 5 on Wednesday in Miami. The top-seeded Heat and second-seeded Celtics are knotted up at two games apiece; the Heat rallied in the second half to take Game 1, Boston used a huge first-half run to respond and win Game 2, Miami answered back in Game 3 and the Celtics romped in Game 4.

"It's not surprising," Boston coach Ime Udoka said Tuesday. "Two teams that are always going to fight, not really beat themselves, give themselves a chance. I've known Miami and (Heat coach Erik Spoelstra) for a while now and that's the epitome of who they are — toughness. Both teams have matched that energy coming off of losses, and now it's our turn to react better to a win."

The Celtics — even without defensive player of the year Marcus Smart, sidelined again, this time with a sprained ankle — left no doubt in Game 4, running out to an 18-1 lead to open the game and never coming close to giving up control.

Miami's starters combined for 18 points in Game 4 — yes, combined, the lowest such total for a starting five in a playoff game in at least 40 years. The Heat were without Tyler Herro because of a groin issue, Jimmy Butler didn't look right (though insisted he was) after missing half of Game 3 with knee soreness, and Kyle Lowry, Max Strus and P.J. Tucker combined to shoot 1 for 17.

AP

Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) is pressured byBoston Celtics center Al Horford, left, during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals, Monday, May 23, 2022, in Boston.

It was ugly. But Spoelstra, somehow, still sees beauty in how the series has gone.

There hasn't been a lead change since the first quarter of Game 2; Boston grabbed control of that game and never let go, Miami took a huge early lead in Game 3 and held on late but never ceded the lead entirely and the Celtics took a stranglehold on Game 4 from the opening seconds.

"What you're looking at is a great series," Spoelstra said. "It's 2-2. You have to embrace that and come together, and hopefully this competition brings out the absolute best in all of us."

Game 5s, in a tie series, are always swing games. When a series is knotted at 2-2, the Game 5 winner in a best-of-seven series ultimately prevails 82% of the time.

"It's kind of like a new series," Boston's Jayson Tatum said. "Best of three."

FOUL MOODS

Boston took 40 more free throws than Miami in Games 3 and 4 combined; the differential was 24 in Game 4 alone. The issue is aggression (or lack thereof), Butler said. "I think we have to be more of a forceful-type team, getting into the paint, not shying away from contact and playing from the inside out," Butler said. "Whenever we do that and not shoot as many jumpers, we might get fouled a little bit."

QUARTER SCORES

The Celtics have lost three quarters and two games in this series. Of the 16 quarters so far in this matchup, the Celtics have won nine and tied four others. The two quarters that hurt Boston the most are obvious: the third quarter of Game 1 (Miami winning 39-14 to turn that game around) and the first quarter of Game 3 (Miami winning 39-18 to set the tone for that win). The other quarter that the Heat won was meaningless, with Miami outscoring Boston 30-26 in the fourth of the Game 4 blowout.

2-2 HISTORY

The Heat are 9-6 all-time in best-of-seven series that are tied after four games, including 1-0 this season after beating Philadelphia in the East semifinals. The Celtics are 34-13 in best-of-sevens that are 2-2 going into Game 5, also 1-0 this season — after losing Game 5 to Milwaukee in the East semifinals but winning the final two games of that series.

ODDSMAKERS SAY

Boston is favored by 1.5 points in Game 5 as of Tuesday, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. That could change, of course, based on injury news and other variables. Miami is 4-1 outright as a home underdog this season and has been favored in 35 of its last 36 home games entering Wednesday.

INJURIES

The Heat are waiting to see if Herro can play in Game 5, and have been dealing with Butler (knee), Lowry (hamstring), Tucker (ankle), Strus (hamstring) and Gabe Vincent (hamstring) being at least mildly limited in recent games. Smart is still trying to get the soreness out of his sprained ankle, and Celtics center Robert Williams III — who has been slowed in this series by ongoing recovery from knee surgery — said he emerged from Game 4 without significant issues.

Giannis, Jokic, Doncic, Booker, Tatum on All-NBA first team

NEW YORK (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo, fellow two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic, Luka Doncic, Devin Booker and Jayson Tatum were voted first-team All-NBA on Tuesday, the first time in 67 years all five players were age 27 or younger.

Milwaukee's Antetokounmpo was the only player to receive all 100 possible first-team votes and finished with 500 points in his fourth consecutive first-team selection. Denver's Jokic and Dallas' Doncic each received 88 first-team votes and 476 points.

Doncic joined Tim Duncan, Kevin Durant and Max Zaslofsky as the only players to make the first team three or more times before turning 24, while Phoenix's Booker (460 points) and Boston's Tatum (390) both were first-time selections to the first team.

Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, the NBA's leading scorer and runner-up to Jokic for MVP, led the second team. He was joined by Ja Morant, winner of the Most Improved Player award, Durant, Stephen Curry and DeMar DeRozan.

The third team was Karl-Anthony Towns, LeBron James — who earned his 18th All-NBA selection — Chris Paul, Trae Young and Pascal Siakam.

Trevino singles in 11th as Yanks end skid, beat Orioles, 7-6

AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge hugs Jose Trevino, front, after Trevino hit a single to drive in the winning run during the 11th inning of the team's baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jose Trevino hit a game-ending single in the 11th inning and the ailing New York Yankees overcame injuries to two All-Stars to end their first three-game skid of the season, beating the Baltimore Orioles 7-6 Tuesday night.

Trevino hit his second homer of the season earlier in the game and also had a tying single in the seventh.

The Yankees lost DJ LeMahieu and Giancarlo Stanton to injuries.

Baltimore's Austin Hays hit an RBI groundout in the top of the 11th off Clarke Schmidt (3-2), adding to his earlier solo homer.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa scored automatic runner Gleyber Torres — who homered twice — in the bottom of the inning to tie it, spoiling Bryan Baker's bid for his first big league save.

Marwin Gonzalez followed with another single, and Trevino then scorched the winning hit off Baker (1-2) into the left-field corner.

Rougned Odor hit a go-ahead, three-run homer for Baltimore in the seventh inning.

Red Sox 16, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Trevor Story and Christian Vazquez each hit a three-run home run and drove in four runs as Boston extended its winning streak to six games with a rout of Chicago.

Story's homer off Dylan Cease (4-2) capped a four-run first inning. Vazquez hit a three-run shot off Matt Foster to highlight a six-run sixth.

The White Sox fell for the fourth time in seven games.

Designated hitter J.D. Martinez had four of the Red Sox's 19 hits. Boston's 16 runs were its most since scoring 20 in a win over Tampa Bay on Aug. 11, 2021.

Nick Pivetta (3-4) was staked to a 10-0 lead after 4 1/2 innings and pitched six innings of five-hit ball.

Angels 5, Rangers 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Noah Syndergaard allowed one run over eight strong innings of four-hit ball in his longest appearance since returning from elbow surgery, and Jared Walsh homered in Los Angeles' win over Texas.

Luis Rengifo and Tyler Wade had RBI singles during a four-run fourth inning for the Angels, who have won three straight following a four-game skid that began with three losses in Texas last week.

Syndergaard (4-2) rebounded impressively from a poor outing at Texas last week by retiring the first 13 Rangers he faced at Angel Stadium. He shut out the Rangers until Jonah Heim's leadoff homer in the eighth.

Dane Dunning (1-3) struck out eight while persevering into the eighth inning for the Rangers despite yielding 11 hits.

Dodgers 9, Nationals 4

In Washington, Mookie Betts homered twice and Los Angeles beat Washington.

Betts smacked a three-run homer off former Dodgers prospect Josiah Gray (4-4) and hit solo shot off Victor Arano for his 21st career multi-homer game and his second of the season.

Chris Taylor and Trea Turner also homered for Los Angeles, which has won nine of 10. Washington has dropped seven of it last nine.

Dodgers starter Walker Buehler (6-1) allowed three runs in six innings, retiring 15 of the last 17 batters he faced.

Braves 6, Phillies 5

In Atlanta, William Contreras singled home Ronald Acuña Jr. in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Atlanta over Philadelphia.

Bryce Harper put the Phillies ahead 5-4 in the top of the ninth with a two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen (3-0). Harper finished with four RBIs.

But the Braves rallied. Dansby Swanson doubled off Nick Nelson (1-1) and advanced on a wild pitch. Swanson came home when Acuña's sacrifice fly bounced off center fielder Roman Quinn's glove, allowing Acuña to reach second base before scoring on Contreras' first career walk-off hit.

Rockies 2, Pirates 1, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Connor Joe singled home the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning and Colorado slipped past Pittsburgh.

With one out, Joe grounded his hit up the middle off David Bednar (1-1), scoring automatic runner Sam Hilliard from second base.

Daniel Bard (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings to complete Colorado's five-hitter. The Rockies won for just the second time in their last 12 road games.

Colorado tied the game in the eighth on Ryan McMahon's two-out single after a costly error by rookie shortstop Rodolfo Castro.

Twins 2, Tigers 0

In Minneapolis, Sonny Gray struck out a season-high 10 over seven sharp innings, carrying Minnesota past Detroit for its sixth straight victory.

Gray (2-1) allowed four hits and one walk in by far his best of six starts with his new team. The Twins, who are 23-8 since April 21, have won each of the last four games with Gray on the mound after he returned from a strained hamstring.

Gio Urshela had three hits and an RBI, and Carlos Correa hit a run-scoring double against Tigers rookie Beau Brieske (0-4).

Jhoan Duran worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Blue Jays 8, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Danny Jansen hit a three-run homer and a solo shot, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also went deep and Toronto beat St. Louis.

Kevin Gausman (4-3) threw six scoreless innings with eight strikeouts and no walks. He allowed four hits and beat the Cardinals for the first time in eight appearances.

Toronto split the two-game series and ended the Cardinals' winning streak at four.

Jordan Hicks (1-4) pitched three-plus innings, allowing four runs on four hits with five walks.

Cubs 11, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Frank Schwindel homered twice in a game for the first time in his career, Marcus Stroman recovered from a rough start to pitch five effective innings, and Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Stroman (2-4) needed 37 pitches to get through the first, allowing four singles and two runs to the first five batters. But he cruised after that, retiring 14 of his final 16 batters with two walks. He struck out eight.

Robert Gsellman worked the final three innings, allowing two runs, for his first save.

Tyler Mahle (2-5) allowed both of Schwindel's homers and was charged with eight runs in four-plus innings.

Rays 4, Marlins 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Kevin Kiermaier hit Pablo López's first pitch for an inside-the-park home run and Tampa Bay beat Miami.

Harold Ramirez and Ji-Man Choi also homered off López (4-2), who had given up only two home runs in eight preceding starts.

Shane McClanahan (4-2) pitched six innings for the Rays, striking out nine.

Kiermaier hit a line drive that center fielder Jesús Sánchez dove forward to attempt to catch. The ball skipped past Sánchez and rolled to the wall as Kiermaier circled the bases.

Astros 7, Guardians 3

In Houston, Framber Valdez pitched seven strong innings and Kyle Tucker hit a three-run homer as Houston beat Cleveland.

Valdez (4-2) allowed seven hits and three runs. Alex Bregman slugged a two-run double in the fifth for Houston.

Cleveland's José Ramírez homered for the second straight game, a solo shot in the first inning.

The Astros tagged Zach Plesac (1-4) for seven runs and a season-high nine hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Diamondbacks 8, Royals 6

In Phoenix, Pavin Smith and pinch-hitter Jordan Luplow homered in a five-run sixth inning as Arizona beat Kansas City.

Daulton Varsho and David Peralta also homered for the Diamondbacks, who have won five of their last six and have 15 homers in that stretch.

MJ Melendez homered, doubled and drove in three runs for Kansas City, which has lost six in a row and eight of 10.

The Royals led 6-3 before the Diamondbacks rallied for reliever Joe Mantiply (2-0).

Amir Garrett gave up a walk and a single before being replaced by Taylor Clarke (1-1), who gave up Luplow's tying three-run homer.

Giants 13, Mets 12

In San Francisco, Joc Pederson homered three times and drove in a career-high eight runs, including a tying single with two outs in the ninth inning, and the San Francisco Giants outslugged the New York Mets 13-12 in one of the wildest games imaginable.

Brandon Crawford hit a game-winning single off closer Edwin Díaz and the Giants — after blowing a late six-run lead — somehow recovered to pull off two improbable comebacks of their own.

San Francisco squandered an 8-2 cushion by giving up seven runs in the eighth to fall behind 11-8. Pederson tied it with a three-run homer in the bottom half, but the Giants trailed 12-11 in the ninth before rallying with two outs and none on to stun New York and end their five-game losing streak.

Francisco Lindor homered and drove in six runs for the Mets, including a bases-loaded triple that put them ahead in the eighth.

Pederson launched a pair of two-run homers off Mets starter Chris Bassitt. San Francisco's slumping cleanup hitter then crushed his third homer of the night, a three-run drive into McCovey Cove off reliever Drew Smith with two outs in the eighth to erase New York's 11-8 lead.

Brewers 4, Padres 1

In San Diego, Corbin Burnes outlasted Blake Snell in a showdown of recent Cy Young Award winners and Tyrone Taylor hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer to help the Milwaukee Brewers beat the San Diego Padres 4-1.

Mike Brosseau also homered for the Brewers, who ended San Diego's winning streak at five.

Burnes (2-2), the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, held the Padres to one run and five hits in six innings, struck out five and walked two. The only run off the right-hander came on a double-play ball in the first and he allowed just one baserunner into scoring position the rest of the way.

"It was a day where he got better as he went," Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said. "He was ahead of hitters and then they kind of battled back into a lot of counts and that ran his pitch count up a little bit. But then as the fourth, fifth and sixth, I thought he did a really nice job of just kind of attacking. His stuff was really good in the zone."

Athletics 7, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Elvis Andrus hit a tying homer in the sixth, singled and scored in the seventh and the Oakland Athletics snapped a 13-game losing streak against the Seattle Mariners with a 7-5 victory.

Tony Kemp had three hits for the Athletics and Jed Lowrie also homered.

"I think (the offense) is trending in the right direction," A's manager Mark Kotsay said. "We talked about that maybe 10 days ago — that the hitters had shown more of an approach to stick with a game plan and a mentality to get the next guy.

"I think we've seen that since we talked about it as a group and they're doing a great job right now offensively of taking what the pitchers and the defense are giving them, and just taking good at-bats together."

With the score tied at 5 in the seventh, Andrus' single off Anthony Misiewicz (0-1) was deflected by left fielder Jesse Winker. The error allowed Sean Murphy to score the go-around run. Luis Barrera then drove in Andrus with a double to give Oakland a two-run lead.

12 make final roster of NMI Badminton National Team

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association has announced the final roster for the NMI Badminton National Team that will be competing in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 next month.

Making it to the Final 12 are national team returnees Nate Guerrero, Andreau Galvez, Daniel and Ezekiel Macario, and Jordan Pangilinan, and newcomer Leonard Manuel of the men's team. Janelle Pangilinan will lead the women's squad, which will also have Windy Fernandez, Jenine Savellano, Jeanelyn Cardinio, and sisters Michaella and Mikamaika Serrano. The Pangilinan and Macario siblings, Guerrero, and Galvez represented the NMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa. James Digno is the group's coach and will be joined by assistant coaches Paulo Quidato and Patricia Surima. NMBA president Merlie Tolentino is the team manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and coaches of the NMI Badminton National Team are presented with one of the competition gears provided by the Mini Games Organizing Committee to the squad for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. Joining them in the presentation held early this month are the officers of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association.

"We are pleased to announce our final roster for the badminton competition in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. These athletes and their coaches have been training hard for the past several months to get ready for the Mini Games and put on a strong performance in the competition. We, at the NMBA, are excited to see them play at home, show great sportsmanship, and challenge the players from six other countries," Tolentino said.

The NMI players will be battling the representatives of Guam, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna in the team event. Tuvalu is also competing, but will only join the individual events.

Badminton Oceania, which will be sanctioning the competition from June 20 to 25 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, has already released the schedule for the mixed team event with the NMI set to debut against Tahiti—one of the tournament favorites. The other seeded squad in the mixed team event is New Caledonia, which won the silver medal in Samoa. Tahiti was the bronze medalist in the 2019 Pacific Games, while Fiji won the gold in the mixed team event. The NMI finished fifth in the mixed team event in Samoa after winning over the hosts and Kiribati.

"We have several players who gained experience from playing in very competitive matches in Samoa so we are positive that this exposure will help them have a better performance in next month's Mini Games and provide leadership to the team, especially to the first-timers in the Games. Our players will be playing in front of NMI fans, so that's an added boost to their confidence. Please come, watch, and support not just our badminton players, but the entire Team NMI," Tolentino said.

Meanwhile, the NMBA thanked the Mini Games Organizing Committee for providing the national team gear and equipment for the Mini Games, which will have its opening ceremonies on June 17 at the newly resurfaced Oleai Sports Complex track oval. ***(PR)***

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umpires last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ball Field.

Flores said despite having no real-game experience as a team, the players are peaking at the right time and said that they're about ready to give their 100% when the Mini Games unfurl.

"We haven't played for the last three years because of the typhoon and the pandemic but we've been getting inter-squad scrimmages prior to our cuts last year. For the past month we went back to doing our inter-squad scrimmages as well as live pitching."

Asked what type of team this 2022 iteration of the CNMI National Baseball Team is, Flores could only say it's a well-balanced one.

"We've been on it having started our training since last year in November so we're about game-ready. It's a well-balanced and an all-around team. We got pitching, we got speed, we got defense, we got power, we have spray hitters, contact hitters," he said.

Pitching ace Josh Jones said the team is ready to defend the gold medal it won the last time baseball was played in the Pacific Games, which was 2011 in New Caledonia.

"I think we're almost there and the team's ready. We have really, really good chemistry and we're still building on it. I don't see us having weaknesses right now and we're just trying to get better as a team and do our job and perform."

The former University of West Alabama Tigers flamethrower said the team's pitching and defense is what they'll be hanging their hats on.

"Our defense and pitching right now is our best attributes and our hitting is just below those two but we're just getting better. One thing good about hitting is it's very easy to improve and the way I see it now they're getting better."

Jones also doesn't see training at the smaller "Tan Ge" ballfield as a disadvantage as opposed to the "Tan'Ko" ballfield which was out of commission due to a much-needed makeover for the Games.

"We have a field right here that's almost like a high school baseball field. We do our scrimmages here at least three times a week right now. But the way I see it, it doesn't matter what field you're on a Little League field or a big field we're going to be ready."

Outfielder Juan Iguel echoed Jones' observation that the team is about ready to lock horns with the best in the region.

"Training is doing good and the boys are getting there. We're going to be ready come game time. We have good teamwork, good chemistry out there, and good communication which is very important on the field. I also believe our defense is going to be tough and we're going to be fast, we're always going to be fast, as Team CNMI is always fast."

Iguel added he's also excited to play Guam in the team's first game, which curiously is happening a day before the June 17 Mini Games opening ceremony.

"Facing Guam is something we're going to look forward to. Of course everybody knows CNMI-Guam matchups are always the best rivalry in sports in Micronesia. It's going to be exciting and it's going to be tough and we're not going to count anybody out. We're going to play from the first to the last inning and we're going to give it all we got."

After game against Guam, the CNMI will then play Palau, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands in the one-round robin tournament. Only the Top 4 teams advance to the medal round where the No. 1 seed takes on the No. 4 seed and the No. 2 seed squares off against the No. 3 seed. The winners will then face off against each other for the gold medal.

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won't be allowed to participates in the Games," he said.

Good thing though that the Pacific Games Council was very understanding and gave the CNMI several chances to reconsider. Torres and NMSA eventually found a middle ground with the Pacific Games Council and agreed to host a reduced Mini Games schedule at a fraction of the usual cost (from $8 million to $3 million).

"So in 2019, council president Vidya Lakhan and CEO Andrew Minogue flew to Saipan for three days and assessed the area. So if you look at the sports we have right now most of them are outdoors. So they went around and saw the damage that occurred at the [Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium] and the [Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios] baseball field and decided that most of the sports that would be offered would have to be outdoors."

Originally, only six sports were supposed to be played in the 11th staging of the Mini Games—athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon. Eventually though, the CNMI increased its financial commitment to $4 million that allowed the addition of tennis, weightlifting, and *va'a* in the Mini Games events calendar.

Peter said it's a credit to the Torres administration and the hardworking staff of the Mini Games Organizing Committee that they're able to prepare for the Mini Games in just 1 1/2 years when it usually takes seven years to organize the event.

"I want to thank the Torres administration for their great support. Without them we wouldn't have been able to expedite permits and [we'd still be] running papers through red tape. Up until today we're still going through that… There's a lot of excitement in the CNMI, but a lot of people still don't know what's going on. We're counting on the support of the community and lastly I would like to thank all the sponsors for supporting us."

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that the former is still $80,000 short of the $400,000 original target.

The MGOC official, however, said that they're still happy with the financial commitment, noting that there's still about three weeks to go before the start of the Mini Games.

"Hundreds of people who have demonstrated their determination to make this event a success and showcase our national pride, spirit, and commitment, and especially to the sponsors. Thank you all business sponsors for being part of the legacy for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022—'Rising Up To The Challenge' for your generous support and contribution in both cash and value in-kind products and services," said Babauta in obvious reference to the Mini Games' theme.

Sponsors, who were honored with the traditional colorful mwars by the MGOC, were led by Platinum sponsors Tan Siu Lin and T-Galleria. Joeten Dai Dai Foundation, another Platinum sponsor, wasn't present but was recognized and appreciated for their donation of $100,000.

The Gold sponsors, which donated $50,000 or more, were also announced and they are Atkins Kroll Saipan, Docomo Pacific, E-Land Group, Fishguyz Scuba Charter, Glorified City Limited, IT&E, LSG Lufthansa Service Saipan, Inc., NMC, Turnkey Solutions, and United Equipment Rental.

The Silver sponsors, which donated $25,000 or more, were Bank of Guam, MarPac Inc., McDonald's of Saipan and Guam, Mobil Oil Marianas, NM Tech, Shaded Rentals, and Triple J Saipan, Inc.

The Bronze sponsors, which donated $10,000 or more, were Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Chong's Corp., First Hawaiian Bank, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hotel Association of the NMI, Islander Rent A Car, Matson, Micronesian Air Cargo Services, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Saipan Stevedore Co., Inc., and Star Marianas Air.

The Sportsmanship sponsors, which donated $2,500 or more, are Cepeda Tent Rental, EST Rental, Hwang Jae Corporation, Kalayaan, Inc., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., RNV Construction, Saipan Shipping Company, Inc., and Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance. Gifts and in-kind donations came from Roma's Rentals and Western Sales Trading Co.

Before the event ended in applause, Babauta once again thanked all the current and future sponsors and said that there will be social functions for sponsors when the delegates come in starting on June 14.

Doncic, Mavs avoid sweep with 119-109 win over Warriors

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Over $1M in cash and in-kind donations so far for Mini Games

LEIGH GASES

Representatives of various businesses who signed up as sponsors for the upcoming Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 pose with members of the Pacific Mini Games organizing committee yesterday at the NMSA Conference Room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Mini Games Organizing Committee yesterday announced that sponsorships for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 has so far reached over $1 million in cash and in-kind donations.

Vicente "Ben" Babauta, MGOC CEO, began the Pre-Mini Games press conference at the NMSA Conference Room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium by thanking all the companies that stepped up in support of the quadrennial event.

Aside from Babauta and his team, led by MCOC chair Marco Peter, also in attendance during the jampacked event were representatives of the various sponsors who were dressed in their Sunday best.

Babauta said collectively sponsorship deals for the Mini Games have totaled over $320,000 in cash donations and over $700,000 in-kind donations so far, adding

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CNMI faced 10-year ban from Pacific Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Now it can be told.

Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter said CNMI athletes would've been banned from taking part in the Pacific Games and the Mini Games if the Commonwealth went through with its initial plan to back out from hosting the quadrennial event following the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

"In 2014 we were awarded the Games but it was put on hold because of what happened in 2015 which was Soudelor. [Northern Marianas Sports Association] just set it aside and everyone just forgot about the Games. [We were just] lollygaging around the gym area and not remembering we had a Games to host in 2021," he said.

The former lawmaker said then 2018 came around and the islands were hit by a double whammy when Super Typhoon Yutu slammed the Commonwealth even as the CNMI hasn't totally recovered from Soudelor.

"…then the Pacific Games Council contacted us and said 'hey, you haven't paid your arrears the past three years and you guys are hosting the Games in 2021. [We know] you just had a major typhoon but we still need you to host the Games and we don't care what you guys gonna do but you guys will host the Games,'" said Peter.

However, at that time the CNMI wasn't in any shape or form ready to host the Mini Games what with the devastation and months of typhoon recovery it was facing.

"…Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres kind of decided that we're not going to host the Games. Either way we had to pay arrears that was over $200,000 and not being able to participate to host the Games and we would've been banned for the next 10 years and our athletes

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MARK RABAGO

Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter shares the CNMI's journey to hosting the Mini Games during yesterday's Pre-Mini Games press conference at the NMSA Conference Room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

'We're going to come in as underdogs'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the last two seasons of the Saipan Baseball League mothballed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the damage sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu by the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field, the CNMI National Baseball Team is actually not the gold medal favorite for next month's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

In fact, national baseball head coach Deron Flores went as far as labeling the team as the "underdogs" in the five-team Mini Games field that includes Guam, Palau, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands.

"We're going to come in as underdogs, but we're going to come in with our heads up high and we're gonna play NMI baseball. We're not going to take any team lightly and we're not going to underestimate anyone. We're going to take it one game at a time," he told *Saipan Tribune* before the team's first inter-squad scrimmage with

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MARK RABAGO

Members of the CNMI National Baseball Team warm up before the start of their inter-squad scrimmage with umpires last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ball Field.